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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MARGATE, RAMSGATE, BROADSTAIRS AND DISTRICT

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THERE'S A NIP IN THE AIR

Thirty year 6 pupils from Newlands primary school in Ramsgate had a sneak preview of Kent Coastal Week when they headed down to Dumpton Gap to explore the site's rockpools. Kent Coastal Week attracted more than 6,000 people to events around the coast. And last week, the isle's coastline received an international accolade when it was named one of the top 12 destinations in the world for 2011 by Frommer's travel guide.

• FULL STORY SEE PAGE 3

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

MILLIONS of tonnes of crude oil is to be transferred between ships off Margate, sparking fears of a potentially massive spill.

A new refuelling service will pump more than two million tonnes of crude oil a year between ships just five miles off Margate.

Thanet councillor Alasdair Bruce, also known across the isle as geology expert the Rock Doc, said: "I consider it highly irresponsible for a company to be undertaking an operation of this nature so close to our shores."

"They are putting our coastline at risk via a commercial operation and I would like to see the authorities taking a stronger line."

"The Thanet coast is protected by almost every designation you can put on it, including being a Site of Special Scientific Interest."

"Were there to be a spill, there is every conceivable possibility the prevailing winds would blow the heavy oil on to our shores, whether at high tide or low tide."

"Apparently, the company can cope with minor spills, but there doesn't seem to be mitigation in place to deal with a major spill."

The venture was set up by Cockett Marine Oil and the Port of London Authority (PLA), which granted the company anchorage within its boundaries.

The service comprises two ships: the LS Jamie, built in 2009, and the larger and older LS Christine. Visiting vessels are moored alongside and supplied via hoses with the thick bunker oil used by most large ships, considered one step up from the bitumen used to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Town council votes against night flights

RAMSGATE Town Council has voted not to support night flights at Manston Airport.

At a full council meeting on Wednesday last week, 11 of the 13 councillors present voted against proposals to extend Manston's operating hours and grant it an annual night flying quota.

Cllrs Barbara Byne and Gerry O'Donnell abstained and Cllr Jill Kirby chose not to vote for fear of jeopardising her Thanet council vote.

Cllrs Peter Landi and Steve Ward were absent.

The council also agreed to ask the airport working party to conduct an urgent review into how well the existing section 106 flight regulations are being implemented.

Calls by Cllr O'Donnell for a full public inquiry into the running of the airport followed by a referendum were not seconded on grounds of time and expense.

In the audience were representatives for residents' associations, Thanet councillors and anti-night flights campaigners.

Charles Buchanan, chief executive of airport operator Infratil, answered questions from councillors and the public before the vote. He began by addressing news that Thanet District Council has delayed the public consultation into night flying.

Mr Buchanan said: "Thanet council commissioned their own review of our impact statement and have requested more information, detail and further clarification."

"Clearly we are disappointed that as a result they have put our application on hold, but we understand it is vital there is a full, clear, open public debate on this matter so the complex issues are fully understood."

A survey carried out by the council on behalf of residents received 238 responses. Sixty-nine per cent opposed the night flights application and 74 per cent had concerns.

The survey was limited as many respondents came from the CT11 postcode area.

When questioned in the town centre, 53 people responded in favour of the airport, with 58 against.

Mr Buchanan said: "There are two reasons for night flights. First, for delayed flights built up through the

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT



DEBATE: The Ramsgate council meeting

day, and second for when night flying is planned and scheduled. We run the risk of airlines relocating their entire operation elsewhere, as has been seen in the past. We need the flexibility to remain competitive and to sustain and develop the employment opportunities we offer.

"We're committed to growing our passenger services, but they don't meet the costs of running an airport. Our presence in the cargo market makes the greatest contribution to our finances at the moment."

Objections raised included questions of potential health impacts of night-time noise, the lack of enforcement of controls and the speculative nature of the company's projected growth and associated benefits, particularly to employment.

Cllr Michelle Fenner said: "Why are night flights so crucial for expansion? How do you see their impact on regeneration in Ramsgate?"

Mr Buchanan replied: "There is a host of academic work looking at economic regenerative effects of regional airports in the wider economy and in particular the tourist economy."

Councillors and audience members remained unconvinced.

Cllr David Carr said: "I live under the flight path and I find the flights appallingly loud. I'm asleep in bed and I am more or less shaken out of bed by the decibels."

"What is the benefit for Ramsgate when people are going to leave and their houses are devalued? I don't see it being made up by the impact of alleged tourism. Businesses will come at the expense of residents."

Minister learns of isle business needs at lunch

TRANSPORT minister Philip Hammond met isle businessmen and MPs in Margate to discuss the future of the railway, the possibility of a new station at Manston and to hear their concerns.

Mr Hammond met Thanet MPs Roger Gale and Laura Sandys during a business lunch at Salinstone Grange, Margate, on Friday.

Mr Hammond, who drove from London, was delayed for the meeting by the sale of High Speed 1 to a consortium of Canadian investment funds which paid £2.1 billion to operate the tracks for the next 30 years.

Mr Hammond said: "The next phase is to expand the network to include more stations, introducing competition and driving up value."

"They would not have paid this much unless they were intent on expanding the service in order to earn a good return."

"We have achieved a good settlement for transport and are investing a further £18bn in the rail network. We have no concrete plans but will be looking for priority investments for 2014."

Subsidies

David Foley, chief executive of the Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce, outlined issues he wished to discuss.

Mr Foley said: "The business community welcomes the budget with its emphasis on the private sector and development. However, there are three areas of concern."

"First, there are National Insurance subsidies available for start-up companies in areas of the country with one per cent unemployment from which the South East is excluded, including Thanet which has ten per cent unemployment."

"Second, we encourage the minister to consider a parkway station with high-speed link at Manston. Airports bring jobs and we welcome Infratil's plans to expand and invest in the area."

"Third we need to address empty rates legislation which was introduced in 2007 and has been devastating. Commercial properties worth more than £18,000 are charged business rates even when not operating, so people are not investing."

"This is doing more damage to commercial properties than the Luftwaffe managed during the war."

"In April, last year, Mr Hammond said he would like to see this act abolished and I intend to remind him of that."

The Rating (Empty Properties) Act 2007 was introduced to lower rents by forcing landlords to lease properties in order to cover their costs, rather than waiting for higher offers.

Pervert's past leads to jail term

A MENTAL-health social worker from Broadstairs who sexually abused a young girl has been jailed for four years.

Michael Pointon, 42, from Prince Andrew Road was sentenced on Thursday last week at Canterbury Crown Court for a range of offences, including indecent assault and gross indecency.

He will be added to the sex offenders register and received a sexual

offences prevention order to restrict his activities upon release.

Pointon called a friend in November 2009 and admitted touching an eight-year-old girl – now aged 17 – and forcing her to touch him, before handing himself in at Margate police station.

Detective Constable Kirsty Verier, the investigating officer, said: "This girl had her childhood disrupted and disturbed by an individual who saw

her as easy pickings and was intent on his own sexual gratification."

"It is testament to her spirit that she has grown into a strong woman."

"This case is an example of how Thanet's child protection team and social services work together."

"Regardless of a person's occupation and public face, there is no hiding place for such criminality and this demonstrates every case will be thoroughly investigated."

Forget Rio - here is the place to be seen in 2011

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

THE east Kent coastline between Whitstable and Ramsgate has been named one of the top destinations in 2011 by a leading travel guide.

Frommer's has published more than 300 international guidebooks spanning more than 50 years of travel and this year has ranked the Kent coastline alongside Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, the Taiwanese capital Taipei and Santiago in Chile as one of the top 12 places to go in 2011.

In her review, Jill Emeny, one of the guide's London editors, wrote: "Less than two hours from London by train, the Kent coastline offers long stretches of clean, sandy beaches (many of them with desirable Blue Flag status), secluded coves, and bustling seaside towns.

"There's plenty to keep visitors going over a long weekend, from quirky independent shops to worthy eateries to stylish boutique hotels.

"Walkers can take off on a bracing clifftop ramble while exploring the 27-mile Viking coastal path, taking in smugglers' haunts and some of the oldest churches in England."

The guide highlights the "traditional seaside resort of Broadstairs" and its Dickensian heritage, with a special mention for "iconic 1930s ice cream parlour" Morelli's.

The announcement has fanned pride in the Isle and accolades have been flooding in.

Andy Somers, principal at Margate's Hartsdown Technology College, said: "We have long flown the flag for Thanet and have not been shy in talking up the area whenever we



RISING TIDE: Kingsgate Bay is among the isle's gems on the stretch of coast to be praised by Frommer's guidebooks

can. Our students protested when Bob Geldof described their town as tatty and they told Alan Sugar his teams of apprentices should have been fired when they visited Margate on a task last year and failed to come up with any ideas that supported youth in the area."

Laura Sandys, South Thanet's MP, said: "This is fantastic news and shows our environmental beauty, historic tourism, sandy beaches and the character of each of our towns shines through.

"I'm thrilled for us all and want to ensure we maximise the importance of this accolade by marketing Thanet even more effectively."

The Frommer's global office puts a shortlist together each year and a smaller team of editors then whittle down the list to the top 12 des-

tinations. A Frommer's spokesman said: "This list is a mix of emerging spots, under-appreciated cities and places to experience before they are overrun by tourist crowds. This list is neither hot nor on-the-verge. It's a mix of value picks that'll still wow you, cities that are preparing for big events, smart alternatives to over-run spots nearby, and destinations that are justifiably hyped."

Thanet councillor Martin Wise, said: "This is praise indeed and just proves what we've always known, that our coastline is among the best in the world."

"We're delighted to be listed among such prestigious company and look forward to welcoming visitors to the isle in 2011."

Growing firm in innovative move

A SUCCESSFUL new business that quadrupled its size in two years has outgrown its home at the innovation centre which fostered its growth.

Marlowe Innovation Centre is celebrating the graduation of its first tenant, Elec-Sec, as it moves to bigger premises in Margate.

The electrical and security company was the first fledgling firm to move into the Ramsgate centre in August, 2008, but business quickly boomed and having grown from four to 17 employees it has now moved into a building three times the size of its earlier workspace.

Andy Burnap, Elec-Sec director, said: "Moving to the innovation centre was the best thing we could have done. We'd been working from home and at first the rent seemed a lot to pay, but once we were there we wondered how we survived before."

"The support they offer small businesses is fantastic. The centre arranged seminars and talks, and the abundance of free advice and help was like a safety net. It gave us the confidence to take on bigger and better projects."

Elec-Sec moved out on September 17 and has been trading in its new premises ever since.

Mr Burnap said: "We were quite sad to go. It was like a community with all the other small businesses sharing ideas and helping each other. It felt a bit like moving out of home."

Tanker transfer spill fear

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

tarmac roads. Both ships are anchored in the Queens Channel, five miles off the isle, within the Margate and Long Sands Marine Conservation Zone.

Martin Garside, spokesman for the PLA, defended the operation: "Bunkering in the area is nothing new, but by bringing it within our authority we are much better able to monitor it."

The new ship-refuelling service and the back-up oil-spill response service is robustly regulated and resilient. Full operational and environmental risk assessments have been carried out. Extensive consultation with statutory bodies and local authorities has been carried out, including with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency [MCA].

"Not a single person has been in touch to complain and all the feedback we've had has been positive."

Thanet council said the operation was outside its jurisdiction and it had not been consulted.

The MCA said that since the operation was within PLA-regulated waters the protocol was to simply be aware of it.

The company predicts that it will supply at least a million tonnes of oil in its first year, with the possibility of expanding to meet demand.

Nigel Collingwood, director of Edge Enviro Services, an oil-spill response

company based in Minster, said: "This has been very quietly done, without consultation with local groups. Having been in the business 20 years and being a mariner, I wasn't impressed by the so-called contingency plans for accidents. I would be happy if it was properly done, but at the moment it's nowhere near what's needed. The first line of defence is the fishermen's association, who have had a one-day training course and are expected to respond to any problem 24 hours, a way of getting round the fact they are meant to have a pollution vessel on standby."

There are no official weather guidelines for trading. A Cockett Group spokesman said: "We rely on the master of the tanker to make the decision to stop trading, but we are not under constraints to decline when the weather is bad. Historically, accidents have happened when aged vessels have broken up, but we are using modern ships and our anchorage is sheltered from prevailing winds."

The PLA confirmed it would rely on the judgement of the pilot and its operation centre on any operation to stop trading. Robert Thompson, general supply manager for the Cockett Group, said: "Refuelling at sea has previously been largely unregulated."

"Thanks to the new Cockett Group service and its work with the PLA, the coast and Channel now have a higher level of protection than for years."



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Isle warned over digital 'scramble'

VIEWERS on the isle have been warned that the much-heralded digital TV switchover may not guarantee an end to interference and pixel scramble.

Thanet is one of the worst districts in the UK for poor reception due to its proximity to France, with parts of Canterbury also suffering from white noise affecting what would usually be the strongest terrestrial channels.

Kent's digital switchover will take place in 2012, but the Government minister responsible, Ed Vaizey, has warned that it may not be the answer to viewers' prayers.

"There is, unfortunately, no absolute right to TV coverage," he said during a Parliamentary debate.

"Nevertheless, we want as many people as possible to have access to a service the vast majority enjoys, and Ofcom is doing all it reasonably can to ensure viewers have access to digital terrestrial TV after switchover."

Secured

There are 10 television transmitters serving the Meridian region, of which four – Bluebell Hill, Dover, Margate and Tunbridge Wells – are in Kent.

But despite both the Dover and Margate transmitters serving Thanet, some areas of the district – Broadstairs in particular – suffer extremely poor reception on both analogue and digital equipment.

Mr Vaizey added that the only suitable location for a new transmitter would be on the top of Thanet College in Broadstairs, but the college is concerned such equipment might prevent future development of the site.

The debate was secured by Thanet South MP Laura Sandys.

Ms Sandys, who has been busy highlighting the issue, said: "We in Thanet no longer want to be left at the end of the line or without a signal."

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Conference Programme



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Tim Allen
MJ Allen



Phil Beavan
Innovation & Growth Team



Elizabeth Dolding
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Johnnie Jensen
Tmandi



Dan Maudhub
Wonderful Creative Agency



Simon Brown
Coca Cola



Neil Annis
ThinkGap



Ben Edwards
Page Suite

Opening Address: 9.00 – 9.20

Lord Michael Howard, Baron Howard of Lympne

Session 1. 9.30 – 10.00

Winning business from the public sector TODAY Panel discussion

In the wake of the comprehensive spending review, many businesses will have to review the way in which they trade with the public sector. Public sector procurement covers everything from multi-billion pound orders for aircraft carriers down to contracts to clean the windows of local schools or supply flowers to the town hall. Every government department, local authority, LEA and health trust has its procurement officers and each has its own buying requirements.

Panel members: Tim Allen, Group Managing Director, MJ Allen
Martin Wragg, Defence Suppliers Service, MOD
Jeff Alexander, Head of External Affairs, South East Region, EEF

Session 2. 10.15 – 10.45

Readying investment... how to catch your dragon

Many people have some great ideas; however, translating them into a tangible prospect for business and investors is not always so easy. Come along and hear how to attract and secure equity investment into your business... the do's and don'ts, rights and wrongs... and how to spectacularly cock it up.

Speakers: Phil Beavan, Portfolio Director, Innovation & Growth Team
Elizabeth Dolding, Partner, Warners Solicitors

Session 3. 11.00 – 11.30

Digital Revolution: What's in it for business?

Apps, stats, video, mobile technology, the web – what does it all mean for business? How can we be a part of the digital revolution and what are the implications for businesses. Come and hear from a leading expert, who has over 10 years of experience in this area, as well as working for leading companies such as Lycos Europe.

Speaker: Johnnie Jensen, Success Engineer, Tmandi

Session 4. 11.45 – 12.15

Tweet, greet and network... is social media like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn worth the investment?

Despite the tremendous growth of business presences on social media sites, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter etc, there are still many misconceptions about how best to use it. Come and hear from an expert, with many years of experience in this area and dispel some of the myths.

Get advice about spending time up front doing analysis, research, goal setting and how having a strategy will make a social media plan easy to execute.

Speaker: Dan Maudhub, Managing Director, Wonderful Creative Agency

Session 5. 1.00 - 1.30

Win the war for talent – getting the best staff

Despite the prospect of job cuts and redundancies, many sectors are struggling with a real shortage of skilled staff. With the green shoots of economic recovery starting to appear, businesses will have to work harder than ever to retain talent, and understand the best way to recruit such staff initially. Come and hear from a leading HR expert, who will offer businesses tips and hints on how to achieve this.

Speaker: Simon Brown, HR Transformation Deployment Director, Coca Cola Company

Session 6. 1.45 - 2.15

Manage and inspire... it doesn't have to be a secret

Books and courses are not a panacea to good management, nor do they guarantee that people will be able to put the theory into practice. Come and hear from a motivational speaker, who has over 20 years experience in operational management, sales, change management, training & coaching, personal and organizational development.

Speaker: Neil Annis, Managing Partner, ThinkGap

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Session 7. 2.30 - 3.00

Global brand marketing strategies for local businesses

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Speaker: Ben Edwards, Marketing Manager, Page Suite

Session 8. 3.15 - 3.45

The Big Debate – what will be the role of business in the Big Society?

David Cameron launched the 'Big Society' to empower communities and said that groups should be able to run post offices, libraries, transport services and shape housing projects. What are the implications of this for businesses and how can they be involved? Come and join a panel session with leading experts from business and social enterprise to hear what they think the future landscape may look like.

Celia Richardson, Director of Communications, Social Enterprise Coalition

Johnnie Jenson, Success Engineer, Tmandi

Clive Relf, Senior Business and Tax Partner, Reeves & Co LLP

Desmond High, Director, EMC Management Consultants Ltd

Roger House, Regional Chair of the Federation of Small Businesses

Panel members:

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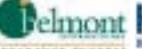
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Exhibitor List

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All Health Matters	Innovation & Growth Team	Services
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA	Inspiring Business	Press-Up
Asbestos First	Performance	Principal Corporation
Austin Associates	Intellectual Property Office	Business Solutions
Baybuk	Interactrice	Print Big
Belmont International	IPS International	PxPig Studios
Brachers	Jewelrama Ltd	Recoop Renewable Energy
Bradbourne House	Judd Associates	Ltd
BT Local Business	KCC - Local Carbon	Smart Opportunities
Buckmore Park Karting Ltd	Futures	SO Magazine
Bupa Healthcare	Kent Business School	Stacey Bee
Business Computer Solutions	Kent Car Craft	Sustainable Marketing
Business Flow UK	Kent Cleaning Solutions	Swale Skills Centre
Business Link South East	Kent F.A.	Thanet & Dover Chambers
Business Week	Kent Fire & Rescue Service	The Kent Foundation (Shared)
Canterbury City Council	Kent Invicta Chamber	The Partnership
Channel Chamber of Commerce	Kent Office Solutions	Thorney Taverns
Charity Bank	Kent Science Park	Transmanche Enterprise Network
Chart Hills Golf Club	Kinnarps	Trax UK
Circatron	KPS Business Services	Tudor Park Marriott Hotel
Claws and Jaws	Leaf Hotels	University of Greenwich
Cleantech	(Ramada Dover)	Unlimited Potential
Comcheck Systems	Lloyds TSB	Uswitch
Complete Ice control	London Golf Club	Utargeting
Core Financial Services	M J Allen	Village Hotels
Credo IT & CRB Checks	Managed Services Centre	Voluntary Action Within
Desibox	Manston Airport	Kent
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BURNING ISSUE: Kent Fire and Rescue is urging people on the isle to enjoy bonfires without compromising safety

Bonfire Night blazes keep the fire crews busy

THE isle was lit up over the weekend as fire-fighters were called to out-of-control bonfires, torched cars and burning bin-bags.

The activity started at 4.57pm on Friday with a call to a bonfire at a house in Ashburnham Road, Ramsgate.

The occupant was armed with a garden hose, but the size of the fire and the threat posed by high winds prompted firemen to dampen the flames.

Just before 8pm, both crews from Ramsgate were called to five tonnes of rubbish ablaze near trees in a well-known flytipping area on a road in Ebbsfleet.

Witnesses had seen people setting off fireworks in the area and fire-fighters spent more than an hour putting out the flames and checking the undergrowth.

Meanwhile, crews in Margate tackled a small rubbish fire in a field by Dane Valley Road before being called to an unattended bonfire in Athelstan Road at 9.19pm.

With no one in sight, the fire had grown far too large for the yard and was threatening the property and fence next door.

The crew put out the blaze with hose-reels.

At 9.50pm, firemen were called to a house in Shakespeare Road, Birchington, where the owner was burning timber and furniture, again without any fire-fighting equipment.

Calls continued through the night as an engine was summoned to Potten Street, St

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

Nicholas at Wade, at 2.10 on Saturday morning to a homeowner burning logs and timber. Fire-fighters checked the scene but found the fire under control, despite its odd timing.

As well as bonfires, fire-fighters tackled two blazing cars at the weekend, a Nissan Navara Sport in Ramsgate and a Fiat Tipo in Birchington, both believed to have been stolen.

The arson trouble continued on Monday morning, when a pump visited Grove Road in Margate to put out two rubbish sacks that had been set alight in a communal yard.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service is urging residents to enjoy their winter bonfires without compromising on safety.

Lawrence Pater, Kent Fire and Rescue Service's community safety manager, said: "Fire can spread easily, so where and how you build your bonfire is important."

"Build it well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences, hedges and overhanging branches and don't use petrol or paraffin to get the fire going – it may get out of control quickly."

"Always keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby in case of emergency and make sure the fire is out before leaving."

"Never leave a bonfire unattended and if it gets out of control, never try to tackle it yourself as it could get out of control. Always call the fire and rescue service."

Landlords against licensing scheme

A NEW selective licensing scheme for Cliftonville West and Margate Central will charge landlords for tenants' bad behaviour and penalise poor property management.

If plans are passed, every landlord privately leasing a house, flat or room in the area will require a five-year licence, costing £525 per unit, to continue operating.

The licence will impose management, fire safety and antisocial behaviour conditions on the property-owner, with fines of up to £5,000 for breaches and £20,000 for unlicensed leases.

Many landlords, however, are unhappy with what some view to be a blanket tax

on good and bad management. Damien Cooke runs estate agency Cooke & Co. He said: "I have consulted with a number of our landlords who are directly affected by this proposed scheme."

"A straw poll has shown that 90 per cent of them are strongly against this knee-jerk type of scheme. They feel that good landlords will suffer and bad ones will refuse to pay."

A Thanet council spokeswoman said: "The council has already written to Damien Cooke to thank him for his views."

"The council would like to point out that the proposals are based on the Government's model licensing scheme."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Accolade for restaurant

AN AWARD-winning seafood restaurant in Ramsgate has become the first independent restaurant in Thanet to join the Sustainable Restaurant Association, recognising their efforts to support endangered fish stocks.

To qualify for the We're At The Table mark Eddie Gilbert's had to prove their commitment to recycling, cutting energy waste and supporting the community as well as using sustainable ingredients.

Jonny Dunhill, restaurant and wet fish shop owner, said: "We have always focused on sourcing the freshest, highest quality seafood, as locally as possible – we don't sell exotic endangered species like bluefin tuna."

"More than ever customers want to see sustainable fish on the menu and we're happy to be giving them what they want."

Alison Evans, SRA spokeswoman, said: "Eddie Gilbert's sets a very positive example. We're delighted to welcome them."

Bank opens new position

THE Mayor of Margate unveiled a third cashier position and welcomed a new recruit at Santander Bank in Margate.

Cllr Michael Tomlinson cut the ribbon on the desk on Monday, November 8, which is hoped will shorten queues at the busy high street branch.

Dawn Gowing, branch manager, said: "We are thrilled to see the introduction of a third cashier position. I'm also pleased to recruit Sean Clarke from the local area, and look forward to welcoming our next new recruit to our fantastic team in Margate."

Fireworks and fun at park

BETWEEN six and seven thousand people braved the freezing cold to descend on Quex Park for their Bonfire and Fireworks night.

Visitors, including a lady celebrating her 60th birthday had travelled from London, Lincolnshire and parts of Kent for the spectacular display in the country park.

With celebrations kicking off at 4pm on Friday, November 5, visitors had plenty of time to amuse themselves with the dodgems and a beer tent before the bonfire was lit at 6.30pm. Swing jive band Hullabaloo played an hour's set before providing a countdown to the fireworks at 7.30pm.



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Campaigners connect with MP over climate

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

RAMSGATE people concerned about the environment have met Isle MP Laura Sandys as part of the national Big Climate Connection.

The Stop Climate Chaos coalition asked groups and individuals across the country to lobby their MPs to raise the environment on the political agenda ahead of climate talks in Cancun, Mexico.

Eleven campaigners met Thanet South MP Ms Sandys on Friday last week at Ramsgate Library and addressed issues concerning them, including the Government's energy-efficiency initiative The Green Deal, carbon emissions and climate finance.

Sadie Britton, 42, Big Connect coordinator, said: "As a mother, I have a responsibility to protect my children's future on our planet which, through our recklessness, may not be able to provide for their needs."

"We need to unite and take action locally and globally to hold governments and corporations to account for their action or inaction."

The collective found a willing audience in Ms Sandys, a member of the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee and who cited her father's contribution to the Clean Air Act of 1956.

Ms Sandys said: "I don't see the difference with what goes on with the melting of the



LOOKING TO FUTURE: The climate campaigners bring their message and concerns to Thanet South MP Laura Sandys

Himalayas and what goes on here. We face food price-hikes and increases in piracy due to climate change. The environment is not a soft issue – it's the future of this country and domestic and global security."

The lobbyists asked for a firm stance on poorly-insulated private rented buildings and help to make older properties fuel efficient.

Ms Sandys said: "The Green Deal is the largest national programme this government will address. I have spoken to the department for energy and climate change about making Thanet a hub for green jobs and green industries and I have had meetings with Canterbury Christ Church University and Thanet College about offering insulation accreditation.

"There is an issue about conservation law, but does that not call for innovation? It cannot be beyond the wit of man to sort this conflict, perhaps by looking at micro-generation and ways of making wind turbines translucent or opaque colours, to fit better with their surroundings."

Ms Sandys also addressed the subject of cargo planes, a contentious topic following Manston airport's bid for night flights.

She said: "Are cargo flights a sustainable way to be bringing in food? Manston airport hasn't worked for decades and we need to ask why it hasn't worked before."

The lobbyists presented Ms Sandys with a Blue Is The New Green tote bag and letters to pass on to the Prime Minister.



Families discover joys of the coast

A BUSY year for Kent Coastal Week saw more than 6,000 people take part in rockpooling, guided walks and art workshops, with a third of all events based on the Thanet coast.

The marine wildlife week ran from Saturday, October 23, to Sunday, October 31, and the 30 events on the isle included wildlife storytelling, sea excursions and educational walks.

The coastal week highlighted the need for coastal and marine conservation in the International Year of Biodiversity.

Anyone interested in running an event next year, with the theme of Creative Coast, can email Kent County Council at kent.coasts@kent.gov.uk.

Must do better, Bob!

THANET council's Conservative leader Bob Bayford has yet to win over his electorate, according to a yourthanet.co.uk poll.

Asked the question 'Do you believe Bob Bayford is doing a good job as leader of Thanet council?', 81 per cent of respondents answered 'No', while only 19 per cent thought the man who took over the local authority reins in May were happy with his performance.

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Sun 5th Dec	Brugge Xmas Markets	£30.00 Per Person (3-16Yrs £25.00)
Sat 11th Dec	Ypres Xmas Markets	£30.00 Per Person (3-16Yrs £25.00)
Sun 12th Dec	Londons Winter Wonderland	£20.00 Per Person (3-16Yrs £15.00)
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Sat 22nd Jan	Holiday on Ice (Brighton)	£40.00 Per Person (3-16Yrs £25.00)

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QUESTION & ANSWER

LISA HEMINGWAY



Q & A

Lisa Hemingway, owner of The Cupcake Café in Margate, talks to **Florence Tennent** about how she moved from the property world to cakes, setting up her family business and watching it boom in its new premises

Q How did the The Cupcake Café start?

A I live in Margate and have worked in the area for the last six or seven years, although my parents used to own a guest house here that I would visit when I was living in London. I opened the small shop next door about a year ago. It was just going to be open a few days a week as a hobby because I had another job with a property company. That company was folding, so I needed to decide what I was going to do – either go and get another job or make the shop into a full-time business. We had a really busy summer and decided to expand into the empty shop next door.

Q How is business in the new premises?

A We reopened on Saturday, October 23, and we've had a lot of people coming in who didn't know we were here before as we didn't have a big shop window. We had a seating area upstairs next door, but it wasn't very obvious – now they can see other people in here. Cake orders have gone up as well, as people have more confidence that we're a proper shop and know what we're doing. Normally, people collect, but we do the occasional delivery – we can do pretty much anything. Cupcakes, baby showers, we've done a couple of weddings and we supply other outlets – we supply a hairdressers who take an order and give them out to their customers.

Q Where did the idea for a cupcake café come from?

A My background isn't particularly foodie – the cupcake idea just came from looking at things going on further afield in London and America. I thought 'That looks like it's going to be popular, I could have a go at that'. I wanted some kind of shop, something that would be fun to do that my sisters could share in. One of my sisters is a chef and the other makes beautiful things and I wanted to work with them as I'd been working quite hard in the property company for years and wanted to do something a bit more fun and creative. My background was in fashion and I missed that nicer side of doing pretty things.

Q How are your family involved in the shop?

A It's a local family business and everyone helps out – my husband, my parents, even the children come in and help sometimes. My younger sister Tina makes soft furnishings and fabric items just for us: cushions, lavender bags and mice, as well as some of the pictures on the walls. Some of the cushions on the sofa are made by her and sold as well, they're doing really well. My other sister is a full-time cook, but she and another lady make the cupcakes every day. It's not just the cupcakes, though, we do carrot cake and we've got ginger and orange cake today. We have a cake of the day, so we normally have at least two choices and

at least six or seven flavours of cupcakes that come in each day, as well as a growing menu.

Q How did the business expand?

A We used to open four days a week and then we went on from there. We used to close on a Monday, but people would ask us to open, so we started opening. People asked for sandwiches and we've now gradually progressed into it – I never thought we'd be doing that in the beginning. We're now open seven days a week, although we close some Sundays and I'm here every day. We need to get organised and then I'll take a day off – I'm hoping about Easter would be good.

Q Was it a challenge opening your own business?

A There was the worry and stress that goes with it, but I had a shop in Canterbury years ago so I'd done it all before – and said I'd never do it again! But I like being busy and sometimes I'd love a day off, but when I do I don't know what to do with myself – I talk to the walls. We're very lucky, it's been very successful and we've had a lot of support from other local shops and lots of help from friends and family. It started out as a small family business and it's just grown and grown. I'd like to open another one, but I can't afford to at the moment, so we'll see what happens.

• The Cupcake Café is at 3 Market Place, Margate.

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On the write track with Jane's advice

AN AUTHOR is giving away the trade secrets on how to be noticed when you finally decide to write that book you've always dreamed of.

Jane Wenham-Jones said the main thing was simply to get yourself noticed and that could start long before pen was put to paper.

The Broadstairs writer went to some famous faces to grill them on how to start a career as a best-selling author, including Joanna Trollope, India Knight, Peter James, Lucy Mangan and Katie Fforde, plus the likes of Richard Madeley and Tracey Emin.

Ms Wenham-Jones said: "Would-be writers need to get out there and get noticed, network, meet agents and publishers, and tell the world they are writing. These days, unfortunately, it is no longer enough just to write a terrific book, unless you are really lucky."

Ms Wenham-Jones, whose books include Raising The Roof and Perfect Alibis, said her advice covered networking, getting a publicity photograph taken and "how to work the room".

The author and journalist regularly appears on radio and TV and is a columnist for the Woman's Weekly Fiction Special, BookTime, as well as being the agony aunt for Writing Magazine.

Her new book was launched in London yesterday (Tuesday).

• *Wannabe A Writer We've Heard Of?* is published by Accent Press, priced £9.99.



Isle crime total is knocked back for second year

CRIME has fallen on the isle. Data collected from police stations and released by the Home Office last month show the number of reported offences has declined for the second year running.

However, despite total offences falling, some crimes are on the increase.

There were 922 household burglaries reported in the year up to June – the highest number since 2006 – and drug offences remain high.

Burglaries in other buildings had fallen to an all-time low during 2009 but this year crept up by more than 150 incidents.

This pattern was echoed by offences against vehicles, theft and criminal damage, which all rose slightly year on year but showed a fall of almost a third on 2008.

Police in Thanet have put together a team dedicated to dealing with burglary and vehicle theft. Detective Inspector Nick Greenan said: "This team provides an additional tactical resource and forms part of an ongoing drive to combat burglary and vehicle crime. They have had a number of good results and we are con-

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

dent that, with the support of residents, we can buck this trend and reduce burglary."

Incidents of fraud and forgery remained low, having fallen by 40 per cent since 2007.

Robbery showed a small increase since March, but overall figures remained lower than their 2008 peak.

Good news came in the form of the lowest-ever reported number of sexual offences, 141 in the year leading up to June, the fewest reports of violence without injury since 2005 and the smallest number of violence-related injuries since 2004.

However, these statistics only show those crimes reported to police, an estimated 43 per cent of actual incidents.

With crimes of a sensitive nature such as rape, these figures may not be an accurate reflection of the true number of attacks.

Further scrutiny of figures for east Kent, including the Canterbury district, showed that although sexual offences had fallen, the number of most serious sexual offences had risen by 2.1 per cent. Crimes involving a knife or sharp



HITTING BACK: Reported crime has fallen on the isle for the second successive year, latest statistics have revealed

object had fallen by 33.8 per cent and gun crime was down 78.9 per cent.

Thanet remained Kent's hot-spot in terms of total crime, with Hastings taking the lead for the South East. However, per person, east Kent fell behind Medway and north Kent.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beatridge said: "We have seen an overall reduction in crime over the last four years. However, we will not be complacent. We want to continue to reduce crime in Kent."

"The work of our neighbourhood teams has helped tackle the problems in our communities and we remain committed to reducing the issues that matter to the public."

"Some areas in Kent are still suffering from the effects of burglary. This is a distressing crime which can make victims feel vulnerable and insecure in their own homes."

"We will be working hard across the county to reduce burglary and make people feel safer."

Talk Shop

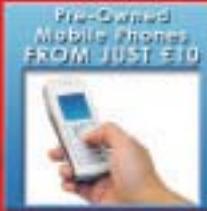
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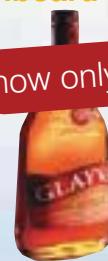


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BREAK TIME**Special visitor who has a real X Factor**

X FACTOR fans at a school in Ramsgate were serenaded by former finalist Ben Mills when he visited.

The year 10 students at The Ellington and Hereson School discussed Ben's life in the music industry and the different aspects of the business before the star played them three of his own songs on the piano.

The visit was set up by Phil Baxter, a guitar teacher and sound engineer at the school who has played with Ben in the band LA Doors.

Bryan Orwell, head of music, said: "Ben was truly inspiring for our students and his influence has generated some interesting work."

Time is here to bid for primary school

PRIMARY-SCHOOL applications are now being accepted for September 2011.

Parents with children due to start primary school next year have until Saturday, January 15, to apply for up to three schools of their choice.

Schools then choose which children to accept, based on such criteria as religious, health and special-access needs, siblings at the school and distance from home.

Children who are not selected for any of their three choices will be allocated the nearest free space to their home address, ensuring that every child is offered a place.

Forms are available online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola, or paper copies can be collected from all primary schools.

Children clean up their park for the community to enjoy

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

YOUNGSTERS from a Cliftonville school have donned gloves and reflective jackets to help keep their community clean.

Thirty-six pupils from St Anthony's School joined forces with employees from Margate McDonald's to clean up Northdown Park in Cliftonville on Wednesday, October 13.

Together they collected 15 black sacks of rubbish, including roadside litter and bags of dog-waste in the hedges.

The outing was organised by youth-worker Rachel Jackson, extended schools coordinator Rebecca Kupp and Margate McDonald's manager Judi Hayward.

Ms Jackson said: "The kids really enjoyed it and got to play in the secret jungle play-area afterwards, which is specially designed for children with special needs. We wanted to encourage a sense of community and giving something back, teaching children the benefits of doing good in order to receive good."

The litter-pick is just one example of the school's efforts to encourage pupils to see themselves as an important part of the community.

"It's sometimes quite difficult for us to participate in the greater community, but this gave us a chance to work with a local business and for the children to realise how valuable they are in the community," said Ms Jackson.

A group of our secondary-school pupils have been meeting once a week and working with the elderly as part of our new inter-generational project, gardening and clearing the graveyard in All Saints Church during



CLEAN SWEEP: Children from St Anthony's School in Cliftonville carried out some valuable service for the community

the school holidays and, more recently, working with volunteers as old as 91 to make lanterns and a banner for the Birchington Christmas carnival."

Martin Wise, Thanet council's cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our thanks go out to all those staff and pupils who generously offered their time to help out with

this litter-pick. Events like this highlight the fact that litter is everyone's responsibility."

"If people hadn't tried to hide their dog-waste bags in this way and left rubbish lying around, we wouldn't need to be doing a litter pick."

"We need every Thanet resident to help keep Thanet clean and take pride in our beautiful towns, parks and beaches."

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yourletters

YOUR LETTERS

Children would suffer from night flights

I am writing to discuss the potential night flights over Ramsgate, speaking on behalf of the children in Ramsgate (and other towns that would be affected by night flights).

Although it may not seem like a major issue to some people, it is a concern to the locals, in particular the children.

If you were at the meeting at Chatham House, you will have heard all the points against night flights from locals such as Sue Kennedy and seen the huge crowd gathered to protest against Manston going ahead with its plans.

I was surprised that there were five councillors missing, since this is a major debate.

Anyway, on to the points against night flights, many of which were brought up during the course of the evening.

Firstly, the harm that the noise can do to children. It has been scientifically proven that loud noises are not good for anyone, especially young children and babies.

No one should be exposed to more than 50 decibels, according to studies carried out by scientists, and young children and babies shouldn't be exposed to more than 40 decibels.

Yet 747s from Manston can make 60-80 decibels and be heard from Ramsgate and St Peters. This is bad enough during the day, but night-time? It would be like trying to sleep through a tornado. It would be practically impossible.

According to research by Cornell University, night flights will result in a drop in achievement of children at school.

As everyone knows, children are the seeds of the future, and underachievement at school could result in disaster in 20-30 years' time.

Secondly, night flights will result in increasing health problems in Thanet (source of information: World Health Organisation).

The people running the airport would argue that they could give people jobs. But would all of those jobs go to locals? No.

In fact, an estimate of 16 local jobs has been predicted.

As the isle's Labour group pointed out, the promise of jobs is "merely an aspiration".

Thank you for reading my letter on night flights.

Hal, aged 10
by email

Can we have a plane answer to my query?

Open letter to Thanet Labour group leader Clive Hart from Bob Bayford, leader of the isle Conservatives:

The headline in a local newspaper 'Labour's No to flights at night' led many to believe the policy of Thanet council's Labour group was now one of total opposition to any

yourblogger

Gary Wright asks why we're all so fascinated with America when Europe is on our doorstep



AM I the only one who thinks the British media devotes far too much time to the ins and outs of politics in the United States?

Why do we send huge reporting crews across to the US to cover the 'crucial mid-term elections' but fail to have more than a handful of journalists a couple of hundred miles away in Brussels?

That, after all, is where decisions that affect our everyday lives are made.

We ignore the European parliament most of the time, yet we are told by our news that we should care about Tea Party candidate Christine O'Donnell, a former witch who doesn't own a Ladyshave.

In the event she had no impact at all and it was obvious (like so many extremists in the US) that she is a minority in a land that has a lot of minorities.

There is no excuse for the deluge of stories and comment on the mid-term elections in the United States that flooded our news outlets.

Who cares about the make-up of the Senate, the House of Representatives and its effect on beleaguered President Barack Obama?

America is in trouble. It has 10 per cent unemployment and is in dire straits financially. It will be looking inward for several more years.

I think the British media's fascination with American political news is easy to explain: laziness.

We are bombarded with sit-coms, movies and books in a language we understand from a country that dominates our culture. So editors assume we are like them.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next Thanet blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk.

night-time flying activity at Manston airport.

If this is the case, I am disturbed and surprised. Most of your group have previously accepted, and voted for, some night-time activity.

The fact that the current Section 106 agreement, which was drafted and approved under the previous Labour administration, made specific provision for a future night-time flying policy, demonstrates Labour's consistency over the past decade.

Indeed, the working party which oversaw the drafting of this agreement included some of your current and most senior councillors.

For the sake of clarity, I formally invite you to declare your position.

This needs to be a simple 'Yes' or 'No' to the question 'Does the Labour group on Thanet council completely rule out night-time flying activity at Manston airport?'.

At the moment, the 'No to night flights' lobby appears to believe you are solid supporters of its position.

The remainder of the island's population deserves to know whether this volte-face is really true.

**Cllr Bob Bayford (Conservative)
Kingsgate ward**

• Statement from Labour group leader Cllr Clive Hart:

I'm pleased to see the Conservative group at Thanet council agrees with us that the current night-flying application is unacceptable.

I wish to make it absolutely clear that our Labour group is supportive of the airport and maximising the employment

opportunities it will create, but this must not be at any price for Thanet's residents.

We certainly do need to balance the economic benefits against environmental considerations.

However, the proposed night-time flying policy does not appear to do that and leaves far too many uncertainties – that is why we decided not to support the application.

We have not ruled ourselves out of any future debate because the current application is not being treated as a planning application and therefore the rules on predetermination do not apply.

Indeed, one of the matters of concern in making our own decision was that we felt that any changes such as those sought at present may well require planning permission.

What value on life?

What is wrong with our judicial system? Ewen Cameron, a Thanet councillor, twice drove his car while under the influence of alcohol with no thought whatsoever of the danger he was putting others under.

Cameron's only punishment was four months' imprisonment and five years' ban from driving – is this all human lives are worth?

Is this man going to be allowed to continue his position as councillor?

**Carole Russell
Ramsgate**

• Asked by Yourthanet about Ewen Cameron's future as a



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a Drumhead Service with a poppy-petal drop within the Remembrance ceremony to remember those who have died serving in past world wars as well as more recent and current conflicts, especially those from our local area.

We would greatly value your support and participation in this occasion.

If you belong to one of our services or organisations and wish to take part in the standard/ colour flag ceremony, it would be much appreciated if you could contact us.

Thank you in anticipation for your support of this event but, more importantly, for your support of the men and women who are serving for our country and for your remembrance of those who have lost their lives for our country.

**Ruth Kilian, Salvation Army
Margate Citadel Corps**

Gale's late response is no surprise to anyone

One didn't need to be Einstein to know the Conservatives 'plans' for capping of housing benefit would have a knock-on effect on seaside towns that have large available converted properties.

The Tories are experts at decanting poorer people from London and this was especially true when Lady 'Gerrymandering' Porter sold off council homes in Westminster.

Furthermore, in 1995, they sent vulnerable refugees who had arrived at Heathrow straight to Cliftonville under the 'support' of their Refugee Arrivals Project (RAP).

Those of us who were left picking up the pieces and later dealing with planning issues surrounding the Nayland Rock Hotel recall the shambles at Government level.

As cabinet member for tourism and leisure, I had meetings with other affected seaside towns and after 1997 Thanet council was able to properly lobby the new Labour government for support.

Thanet North MP Roger Gale as usual blamed the victims without offering any solutions.

Now his high profile and rather belated reaction on the next 'influx' comes as no surprise to those of us who have watched him duck and dive on this type of issue before.

Was he and his fellow 'surprised' candidates in east Kent not told prior to last May's election by David Cameron that they needed to prepare for a new batch of 'homeseekers'?

Before any Conservative responds, may I suggest they look at the financial support the Labour government gave Thanet?

Our schools, hospital, doctors' surgeries, regeneration and tourism needs were addressed and with business-rate relief and training and a decent-homes strategy Labour had begun to undo some of the damage of the previous soul-destroying 18 years.

As a taxpayer, I also like value for money and at present Mr Gale is not giving it.

**Cllr Iris Johnston (Labour)
Margate Central**

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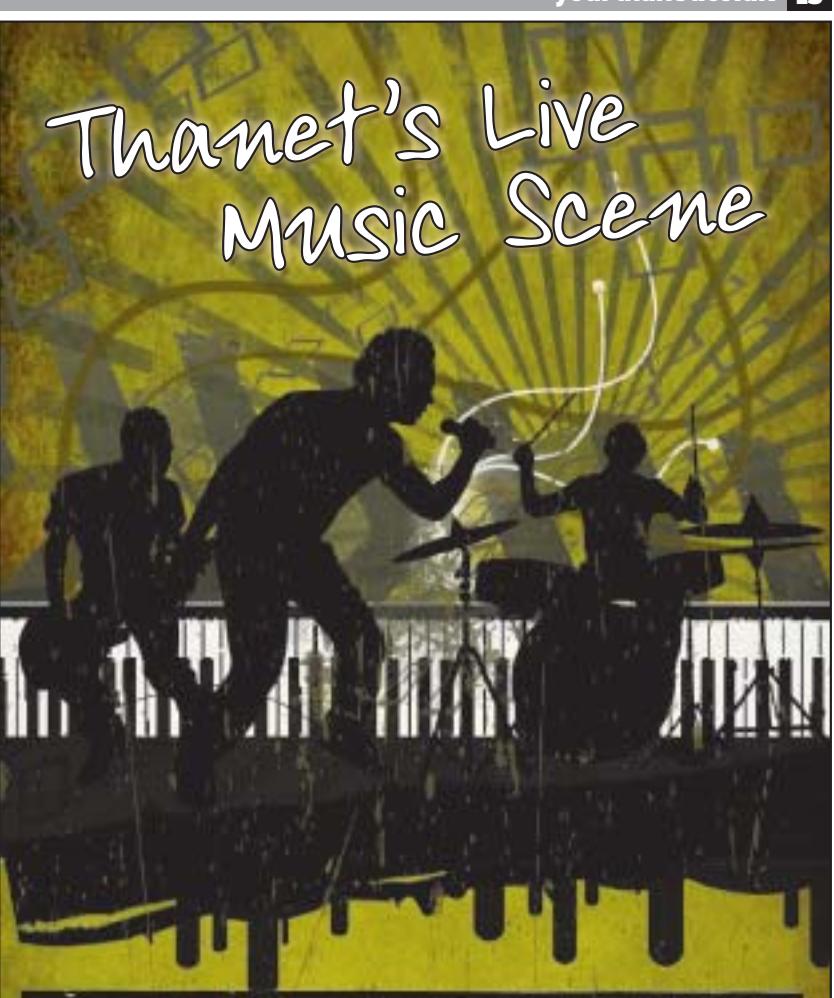
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Saturday 13th November

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Crown court date for crash trucker

LORRY-driver Steven Hole has admitted causing the death of Margate postman Michael Garner by careless driving.

Mr Hole, 45, from Swanley, appeared before Margate magistrates on Monday, November 1, and admitted that a momentary lapse of judgement caused his cargo lorry to hit 61-year-old Mr Garner's bicycle while driving east in Marine Terrace at 3.45am on Friday, May 14.

Mr Garner died of his injuries later that day at QEPM Hospital in Margate.

The case was referred to Canterbury Crown Court for sentencing – the maximum term is five years in prison.

Magistrates chairman Ian White said: "We do not deem this to be purely a momentary lapse. CCTV footage showed you had enough time to see the bike. There is a likelihood of excess speeding."

Hole was granted unconditional bail but handed an interim driving ban.

Mr Garner's son, speaking after the trial, said: "There are no words – I just want to know that there is no blame laid at my father's door."

Turner's golden hue

TURNER Contemporary's designer is to receive one of architecture's most prestigious prizes.

Sir David Chipperfield will be awarded the Royal Gold Medal for architecture in recognition of his lifetime contribution to his craft.

The Queen will present the award before the Royal Institute of British Architects in London on Thursday, February 10, next year.

Pirate golf offers hole lot of fun

■ REVIEWED BY ELLIOT and FRANCESCA WRIGHT

THERE'S a new golf course in Kent, but you are more likely to see Captain Hook than Tiger Woods or Lee Westwood.

Bluewater opened its new Pirate Cove Adventure Park just in time for the half-term holiday; it is made up of two 18-hole adventure golf courses, pedalos on the lake and an aerial climbing wall.

Anyone who has been to Blackpool will feel at home but, thanks partly to its newness and its location, the whole adventure-golf section felt slick and fun.

Bluewater bosses undoubtedly consulted top theme-park managers before building the attraction

and the whole site – built on the lake area in front of the main fast-food hall – has captured that holiday atmosphere.

Elliot Wright, aged 13, from Ashford, is an adventure-golf aficionado, having played all over the UK, including the three mini-courses in Hastings, where he normally wins at least one free game and secures an under-par score.

This year he also sampled Great Yarmouth's three adventure golf courses along the seafront.

He said: "I was looking forward to Bluewater. I'm not a big fan of shopping, so it was a good reason to go along with my family.

"I completed the 18-hole Smugglers Course in 50 shots, but I know I can do better next time and I would like to try the other Pirate Course."

"Hole 17, playing on the deck of the pirate ship, was good fun and a



SHOP AHOY: Pirate Cove Adventure Park at Bluewater where Elliot and Francesca Wright tried their hand at the 18-hole adventure golf course

couple of the holes had really been well thought out, with some neat challenges. I think it was hole 12 where there was a big drop, but you had to get the pace right and ensure you putted into the second of the three possible dips.

"Overall, I like the Bluewater course – it was tidy and well looked after. Half the fun of playing, though, is who you are up against and maybe I'd like to play a round against tougher opposition than my dad and sister."

His sister Francesca, 15, has played alongside her brother at adventure golf a few times before.

"I love shopping at Bluewater – that would be my main reason to

come," she said. "But I can see how by adding the adventure park with the golf this can make it even more of a fun day out for the family."

"The golf made a good fun break and we enjoyed it – it reminded me of being on holiday, which must be good in November. And then we went shopping."

Ratings: Elliot 9/10, Francesca 7/10

It costs £7.50 a round and £5 for under-12s. A family ticket for four costs £21 and a second round on the same day is half-price. Pedalos cost £8.

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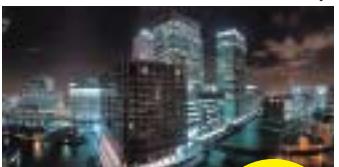
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SCROLL: RNLI chief executive Paul Boissier, right, with Margate coxswain Trevor Lamb at dinner

RNLI buoyant after anniversary year

MARGATE lifeboat station rounded off a year of anniversary celebrations with the presentation of a commemorative scroll.

Paul Boissier, chief executive of the RNLI, presented the 150th-anniversary vellum to Trevor Lamb, Margate lifeboat coxswain at a dinner and dance.

The evening at St Augustine's College, Westgate, was a formal celebration of volunteers' commitment and sacrifice over the years, in contrast to the festive harbour day in August which saw both the station's lifeboats staging rescues.

Mr Lamb said: "2010 has been a memorable year and it has been a privilege to be involved."

"We are all proud of the work we carry out, but it's just as important that we are mindful of the commitment, sacrifice and dedication of lifeboat crews and their families, fund-raisers and supporters from previous generations who have paved the way for us to be able to celebrate this important anniversary."

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

TYCOON Duncan Bannatyne has signalled his confidence in the economic recovery by opening a new luxury spa on the isle.

After almost two years spent battling the recession, the Scottish multi-millionaire – a star of the hit BBC Two show Dragons' Den – has switched his focus back to expanding his fitness empire.

His most recent investment is the £350,000 spa at his health club in Broadstairs, which he opened on Wednesday last week.

"During the recession everyone had to batten down the hatches and watch what they were spending," said Mr Bannatyne, 61, who has an estimated fortune of £320 million.

"We did that at a board meeting in December 2008, when we decided not to expand any more until things got better, and to instead focus on increasing our cashflow and profits. Now the economy is recovering we've started to grow our business again. As our Broadstairs health club is one of the biggest in the country, it was the next obvious choice for us to develop a spa."

Mr Bannatyne's business career began in his 20s when he bought an ice-cream van for £450, later selling an entire fleet for £28,000, founding his Quality Care Home business with the proceeds. He sold that for £26m in 1996 in addition to the children's nursery chain Just



PAMPERED: Duncan Bannatyne enjoys a manicure from therapist Tiffiney Whatman at the opening of the new luxury spa at his Broadstairs health club

Learning for £22m. The idea for Bannatyne's Fitness was born after a skiing accident in the 1990s, when Mr Bannatyne struggled to find facilities close to his home that would allow him to carry out the exercises needed to recover.

It is now the UK's largest independent health-club operator, with 60 sites across the UK employing 5,000 people. It also has more than 180,000 members.

"The health-and-fitness sector is doing well because people will always want to work out and feel good about themselves," he said.

"We have more members than this time last year and the health-club sector is up about 2 per

cent. The spa sector is up by about 30 per cent – things are moving in the right direction."

The new spa at the Westwood Farm site in Broadstairs boasts four therapy rooms and a dual treatment room for couples and friends to share.

Mr Bannatyne, who has been part of Dragons' Den since the show first aired in 2005, said he was always willing to help bright young businessmen and women succeed.

"It's important we have entrepreneurs," he said. "We need the youngsters coming out of university to help drive the economic recovery in the future."

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DAY & NIGHT**Concert for woodland**

A CONCERT for the Woodland Trust will take place in Faversham on Saturday, November 20.

Kent-based poet Robert Duncan Martin and Hertfordshire-based singer Richard Stark present classical pieces, carols and new work from 7pm at Faversham United Reform Church.

Tickets are £15 (concessions £12) from the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre, and Crowthers of Canterbury.

A little light orchestra

THE Palm Court Seven will recreate the golden days of the BBC light orchestras when they perform in Broadstairs.

This concert will be held at the Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone, at 3pm on Sunday, November 21. Seats are £8.

Call the box office on 0845 2626263 to book or for details.

X Factor winner sings

X FACTOR winner Alexandra Burke is to play a show in Margate.

The winner of the 2008 show comes to the Winter Gardens on February 16, 2011, on her UK tour, All Night Long.

Tickets are £27.50. Call the box office on 01843 292795 or 01843 296111.

Folk star guest of club

REKNOWNED folk musician Dave Swarbrick plays at Faversham Folk Club on Wednesday, November 17.

Tickets to see the former Fairport Convention man at the Folk Club's venue The Chimney Boy in Preston Street, Faversham, are £8.

Call 01795 534368 or 07980 203992 to book or for more information.

A right royal dilemma

LION In Winter, by James Goldman, comes to the Tower Theatre in Folkestone for three nights from tonight.

The historical play charts Henry II's dilemma over which son he wants to succeed him. It runs from November 10 to November 13, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £9 (£8 concessions). Call the box office 01303 223925 or book at www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.

A flavour of Christmas

APPLAUSE Rural Touring present s Miracle on 34th Street at Norton Village Hall, on Saturday, November 13.

The Christmas classic has been described as a 20th century Christmas Carol, with its warm, funny story of an old man who insists he is Santa Claus.

The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 in advance (children under 18 £5) or £8 on the door. Book by calling 01795 521581 or 01795 522241.

Out of all proportion

A NIGHT of folk tales of great disproportion with live magic and music, takes place at the Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate, on November 12.

Infectious Theatre present Infectious Stories, fat 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 or £8 and available at www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk. The show is for ages 12 and over.

Comic Josie takes fame in her stride

JOSIE LONG

Friday, November 26,
Horsebridge Centre, Whitstable.



IF Josie Long was a new band, she'd be all over the radar section of the NME right about now.

Earlier this year, when Newsnight Review turned to look at the comedy ground zero that is the Edinburgh Festival, it was Long's acclaimed show they examined first ... and raved about.

Long is possibly the hottest ticket in comedy right now, for those in the know, so the chance to see her at the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable for just £7 is not to be missed.

She gathered a following in her teenage years as a young comic tipped for big things, and the spotlight certainly has swung back in her direction.

However, the cute comic seems a little bemused by all the attention.

On the phone, wandering the streets of her home town in Hackney as emergency services sirens ring out in the background, the 28-year-old admitted to being a little non-plussed.

"It's flattering to think that people like me, but I never know what to say to all that, it's kind of weird. It's really nice for people to say that kind of thing about you, but I just feel like I'm trying to build up an audience and develop my own little style," she said.

"I've toured a lot for the last four years, and most of the time I'm just trying to not be rubbish! It's exciting to have attention, but I do still see myself as quite small fry."

She is probably being a little modest, but it becomes apparent as we chat that she feels embarrassed by the notion that she could be considered "cool".

Starring roles in Skins – episodes of which she has also helped to write – and a slew of awards for her stand-up shows could have helped launch her ego into la la land, but it's clear from her good humour that she is keeping her feet on terra firma and not getting too carried away.

It is perhaps because comedy was something Josie started to do at a young age, that has helped her to retain a little humility, while the good reviews stack up.

She said: "I've been doing this for half my life now. When I first started it was something that was very removed from my life and I just wanted to write silly little jokes and stuff I thought I could perform.

"I used to get quite nervous and would feel sick, but now I feel like it's working well, and I seem to be able to talk as myself on stage now and I have developed and can concede to leave stuff that isn't working or getting a laugh. I have built up a bit more confidence.

"At the moment, I'm touring with some guys that I get along with so well, and because there's three of us it's like we're a little gang and that makes it more fun. It means the time off stage is interesting, and we can talk to each other and sound each other out about how it went."



Picture: IDL SUKAN

Josie's solo show comes to the Horsebridge in Whitstable on Friday, November 26, for an intimate night of stand-up.

Her whimsical material now sits shoulder-to-shoulder with some of her increasingly political observations and stories, and she is taking her routine in a new bolder direction.

She may not believe the hype, but we'll leave you to judge for yourselves.

Tickets to Josie's Be Honourable tour at the Horsebridge are £7, £5 concessions. Call the box office on 01227 281174.

For more details, visit the website at www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk.



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Alan said: "We have both practised yoga for many years and know the benefits it has given to us – flexibility, strength and the ability to relax. When the opportunity arose we decided to open a yoga studio so those benefits would be available to everyone."

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working shifts can change classes at any time, which encourages them to have a regular practice.

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The studio will be promoting a Christmas

yoga workshop for five- to 11-year-olds, with special activities.

Glenys and Alan offer personal one-to-one tuition classes both in the Yoga-is studio and at your home, or try Buddy Yoga, where two friends can share a lesson, reducing the cost.

Yoga-is, 20 The Broadway, Broadstairs CT10 2AA
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MAMANE BARKA

Saturday, November 13, Astor Community Theatre, Deal



AN unusual performer comes to the Astor on Saturday.

Thanks to Applause Rural Touring, the highly-acclaimed Mamane Barka will be performing as part of their Autumn 2010 season.

Barka, of Niger, was born into a family of Touhou nomads and grew up to become a teacher and a celebrated musician with desert blues at his heart.

A decade ago he heard the beautiful sound of the biram, an enormous boat shaped five-stringed harp sacred to the Boudouma people of Lake Chad.

He learned the instrument by going to live with possibly the last surviving master of the

instrument, learning its rituals and ancient, mythical songs.

On the death of the master, Mamane Barka was bequeathed the biram and charged with bringing the instrument to the attention of the world.

Now Mamane maintains the tradition single-handedly, touring the world with his life-long friend, percussionist Oumarou Adamou, whose trance-enducing percussion is the bedrock of this extraordinarily powerful music.

Support comes from Liam Magill and Raven Bush.

Tickets are £8 in advance £10 on the door.

Call 01304 370220 or 381134 to book.



MARTYN JOSEPH

Wednesday, November 10, St Mary's Church Arts Centre, Sandwich



JUST when you think you've got a handle on singer songwriters, along comes Martyn Joseph to blow the myth away.

On his tour, showcasing material from his brand new studio album Under Lemonade Skies, and in a year that marks 30 years in the business, Martyn proves there's nothing predictable about his gigs.

An acoustic artist with an electrifying spontaneity, this gifted Welshman has five top 50 hits to his name, and has been in demand for more than two decades.

Touring both solo and with the

likes of Ani DiFranco, Art Garfunkel and Jools Holland, he has won fans everywhere with his melting pot of material which ranges from rock to blues, jazz, Americana and "funk folk".

A mean guitar player with a powerful voice, he was voted Best Male Artist in the BBC Welsh Music Awards.

Shades of Springsteen, John Mayer and Dave Matthews there may be, but Joseph is unique.

Tickets for this Folk in the Barn event are £16 (£14 concessions). Call 01227 831493 to book or for more information.

JEREMY HARDY

Saturday, November 13, Quarterhouse, Folkestone



CLEVER comic Jeremy Hardy closes the Folkestone Book Festival on Saturday, with this stand-up show.

An essential member of Radio 4's The Newsquiz team, and a regular on shows such as Mock the Week and QI, his Radio 4 show Jeremy Hardy Speaks To The Nation returns in June.

Jeremy's shows are very much a work in progress.

He said: "I'm always fiddling with the material. The show's never finished. I think if I felt it was a completed piece of work, I'd get bored with it. I've never taken a break from stand-up. It's what I do and I do it all year round. I hope to get the hang of it one day. When I started, my only ambition was to make a living, and I've succeeded in that so far. What's weird to think is that I'll have to keep doing it for another 30-odd years, so I'm not even half way through."

"I aim to have a mostly-new show when I come to a town I've been to before, which is usually every couple of years. And people come back again and again to see me, probably to check that I'm OK. It's like being in a mobile nursing home."

Tickets are £15 from 01303 858500 or online at www.quarterhouse.co.uk.



PAUL CARRACK

Thursday, November 11, Margate Winter Gardens



UNDERRATED singer-songwriter Paul Carrack has worked with some of music's great names and fronted Mike and the Mechanics.

His fiercely loyal fans will be first in the queue at the Margate venue tomorrow night, but new fans will also be in for a treat.

The voice behind world-wide hits such as 'How Long' by Ace, Squeeze's 'Tempted' and, of course, the timeless classic 'The Living Years', Carrack is now firmly established as a solo performer.

For his new album, A Different Hay, he has teamed up with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The 12-song work is his 15th longplayer and a change of direction for him after supporting The Eagles.

Initially finding fame with Ace and Roxy Music, he has gone on to enjoy a successful career that spans 40 years, including guest appearances on more than 60 albums, as well as writing for The Eagles, Diana Ross, Tom Jones, Michael McDonald and Jools Holland among others.

Showtime is 7.30pm. For tickets, £27.50, call the box office on 01843 296111 or 01843 292795 or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



THINK NO EVIL OF US

Sunday, November 20, Theatre Royal Margate, Margate



DAVID Benson's acclaimed portrayal of Kenneth Williams is his attempt to show the complex nature of the man.

Since Think No Evil of Us first stunned Edinburgh audiences in 1996 – winning a Fringe First Award – Benson has toured the length and breadth of the British Isles from Shetland to Cornwall, stopping for numerous West End dates and runs.

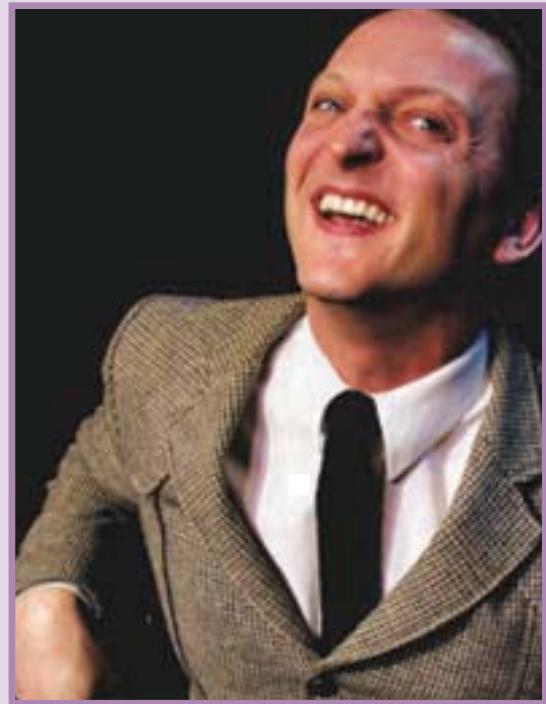
Now in its 13th year, new audiences are still discovering the one-man show and old ones will get the chance to savour the wit and dramatic flair of this unforgettable performance.

It breaks the mould of the typical biographical show, eschewing dates, facts and over-familiar anecdotes.

A portrait of the Carry On star is built up, showing him to be vulnerable, insecure and capable of breath-taking cruelty.

Hailed by friends and colleagues of the actor (including Barbara Windsor and Dame Maggie Smith) as the most accurate portrayal of Kenneth Williams ever seen, Think No Evil of Us remains a testament to a much-missed entertainer and a masterpiece of modern theatre.

Tickets are £12 from the box office on 0845 130 1786 or the website at www.theatreroyalmargate.com.



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BUSINESS EDITOR



STEVE LOADER

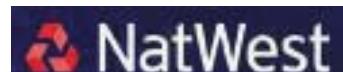
TELEPHONE: 01303 817029
EMAIL: steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

CHAMBERS of Commerce chief David Frost has delivered an upbeat economic message to members of Kent's largest local chamber.

"It is difficult to see anything that is not working in this locality's favour to take full advantage of economic recovery," he told the AGM of the Kent Invicta Chamber in Ashford.

The director general of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) said the availability of land for development and its communications advantages, especially the high-speed rail link, promised a great future. He also said BCC surveys say there was no evidence of a dip recession.

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Today's live show debut really is the business

■ BY STEVE LOADER

BUSINESS Week Live makes its debut today (Wednesday) at the County Showground at Detling, near Maidstone.

It is a spin-off from Archant KOS Media's successful Business Week section and we don't think it could be better timed for the economy.

We are just a few weeks away from what promises to be a pivotal new year for the debt-ridden UK economy.

And three weeks ago to the day, David Cameron and Nick Clegg's coalition Government unveiled the much-hyped Comprehensive Spending Review.

We didn't hear much in the way of nasty shocks – most of the big stuff had been leaked beforehand – but there was precious little guidance for the small to medium firms that contribute so much to the Kent economy.

And that's where we come in, with around 100 exhibitors drawn from the county's wide-ranging community, the chance to network with each



BIG HITTER: Baron Howard of Lympne

BUSINESS WEEK Live

other and with visitors, and a stunning line-up of more than 20 speakers able to offer genuine and valuable advice, guidance and inspiration.

The speeches will make a big-hitting start with one-time Conservative Party leader and former Folkestone and Hythe MP Michael Howard. The Tory grandee – who stood down at the May General Election and now sits in the Lords as Baron Howard of Lympne – will surely deliver a lively view of the coalition's progress under his successor as party leader, David Cameron.

After that comes a medley of topics covering key areas including hunting investment, harnessing social media such as Twitter and Facebook, inspirational management, and even the way David Cameron's Big Society might work for business.

It is impossible to imagine that any delegates attending this free event staged by our company, Archant KOS Media, will come away without some tips to help rescue, stabilise or grow their



Why you can't afford to miss Business Week Live today, Wednesday, at Detling. See businessforkent.co.uk for details

business. Kent Business School is also providing a free clinic during today's show to help troubled firms find a cure for their ills.

The coalition wants the highly flexible smaller end of the business sector to pull the country out of debt, and Business Week Live aims to help.

• For more news and details about the event go to businessweeklive.co.uk.



Twig Trading going for growth

BRITAIN'S battered economy hasn't held back a Kent company as it goes on to compete for a top business accolade.

Landscaping and countryside management firm Twig Trading struck lucky when it won a contract with Thanet Earth, the UK's largest, most hi-tech greenhouse complex, where Twig planted 15,000 trees in just three weeks.

Twig Trading, based at Lamberhurst, near Tunbridge Wells, has now won Business of the Year in London and the South East. The company will now battle for the national trophy in the British Chambers of Commerce's Chamber Awards 2010 later this year. Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce – pictured, left, with

Miranda Eyre of Twig Trading – said: "It's exciting and gratifying that another of our members has won this prestigious BCC award, following on from a win in our own Business Awards.

"Last year it was Sunray Engineering, who went on to take third place in the BCC national finals.

"We promote our awards to celebrate business excellence. With Twig Trading scooping this award, and with the chance to take it yet further in the national finals, I think this all goes to prove that our area, and, of course, Kent Invicta Chamber especially, has a wealth of business excellence."

Court rejects French firm's challenge to Eurostar fleet upgrade

EUROSTAR has battened away a court challenge from French firm Alstom caused by the Channel Tunnel high-speed train operator placing an order with rival German train maker Siemens.

The row blew up after Eurostar announced a £700 million upgrade to its fleet as part of an expansion of services. The current fleet of 28 trains built by Alstom will be upgraded, but a further 10 all-new trains with 20 per cent more capacity will come from Siemens.

Alstom chose to challenge the scheme, alleging the new trains would breach safety regulations for the tunnel and Eurostar failed to follow procurement rules.

But a High Court judge rejected the French firm's appeal and Eurostar issued a statement afterwards: "We are very pleased that the situation has been resolved and we can proceed



TUNNEL VISION: Upgrade is back on track

to signing the contract for our new fleet of trains with Siemens.

"We have always been confident that we conducted a rigorous tender process and have chosen the best trains for our passengers.

"With our current fleet upgraded and our new fleet of trains in place we will be able to offer our customers a real alternative to taking the plane for short-haul European travel."

Eurostar's ambitious plans follow clear signals from other European operators and consortia, notably German national carrier Deutsche Bahn, that they are also looking at expansion of their networks via the tunnel.

And the prospect of an image-led transatlantic airline-style war has been raised by Eurostar's announcement that it will use legendary Italian car design house Pininfarina to create a striking new identity for the expanded fleet.

It has been touted as "a contemporary, stylish environment in which passengers can work or relax" and offering "the most advanced wi-fi and on-board 'infotainment' on any train in Europe."

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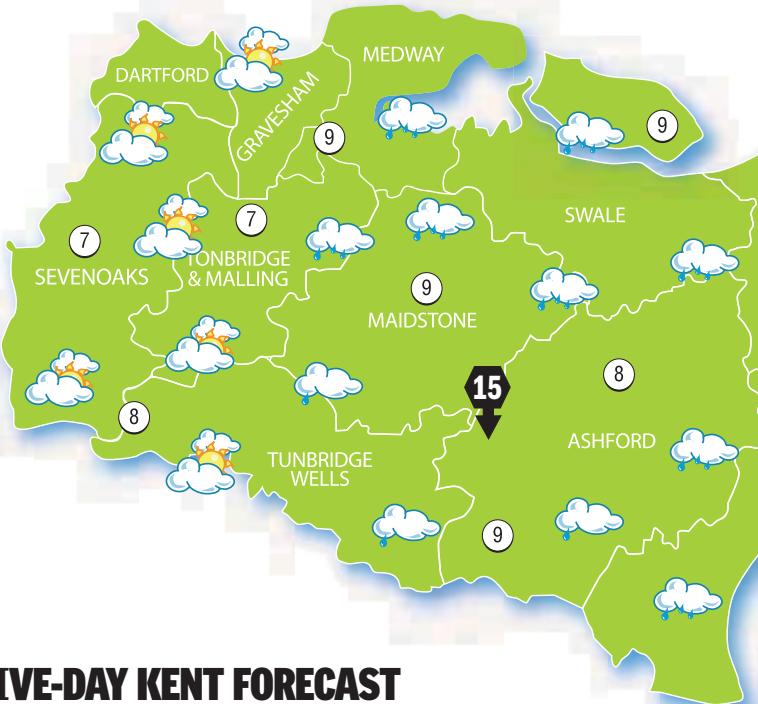


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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	7°C	Madrid	10°C
Athens	21°C	New York	9°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	11°C	Rome	15°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	27°C
Cape Town	19°C	Tenerife	24°C
Cardiff	10°C	Tokyo	19°C
Gibraltar	17°C	Vancouver	12°C
Hong Kong	28°C	Warsaw	10°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	13°C

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	5:36pm 5.0m	Sunday	6:38pm 4.8m
Dover	Saturday	3:55pm 5.4m	Sunday	5:11pm 5.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	3:47pm 6.2m	Sunday	4:57pm 5.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:25pm 4.1m	Sunday	5:41pm 3.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:25pm 4.9m	Sunday	6:26pm 4.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:24pm 4.6m	Sunday	6:33pm 4.5m

SUNRISE 7:05am SUNSET 4:13pm
 MOONRISE 11:34am MOONSET 7:46pm

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		
Ashford	9°C	10°C	11°C	13°C	12°C	Dover	9°C 9°C 9°C 11°C 13°C 11°C
Canterbury	9°C	9°C	12°C	13°C	12°C	Faversham	9°C 9°C 10°C 12°C 14°C 12°C
Chatham	9°C	10°C	12°C	14°C	12°C	Maidstone	9°C 9°C 12°C 13°C 12°C
Dartford	9°C	10°C	13°C	14°C	12°C	Ramsgate	9°C 9°C 12°C 13°C 12°C
						Rochester	9°C 10°C 12°C 14°C 12°C
						Gravesend	9°C 10°C 13°C 14°C 12°C
						Sevenoaks	7°C 8°C 10°C 12°C 11°C
						Sittingbourne	9°C 10°C 12°C 14°C 12°C
						Tonbridge	8°C 9°C 12°C 13°C 12°C
						Tun Wells	8°C 9°C 12°C 13°C 12°C



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There's no escaping the crudeness with the unleashing of Jackass 3D

■ BY DAMON SMITH

EVERYTHING you need to know about the third feature-length installment of the outrageous MTV show is encapsulated within the consumer advice from the British Board of Film Classification: "Contains extremely crude and dangerous stunts, and strong nudity."

By crude, the BBFC means vomit, blood and excrement aplenty as Johnny Knoxville and his daredevil pals attempt another bewildering array of pratfalls that defy all common sense.

Since the joke is on the Jackass team, we can't help but laugh as these grown men set themselves up for an almighty fall by risking life and limb for our supposed amusement.

The usual tongue-in-cheek disclaimer prefacing all of the gung-ho antics – "Warning: the stunts in this movie were performed by professionals..." – but it's doubtful that anyone of sound mind will want to recreate the tomfoolery in Jackass 3D.

Animated duo Beavis and Butthead introduce the mayhem, which begins gently with a sequence called 'The High Five' in which unsuspecting members of the team are walloped in the face by a giant hand.

The danger factor increases as Steve-O risks his ability to bear children in the eye-watering Tee Ball and then Knoxville feels the full force of Mother Nature in Roller Buffalo.

Bone-crunching replays in slow motion are horrific, the amplified sound leaving us in no doubt that the team will be frequent visitors to the local accident and emergency department.

Some of the stunts are childish fun – withstanding the blast from the engine of a jet plane – while others are plain stupid, like the aptly named Electric Avenue, which sees all of the team running the gauntlet of suspended



CRUDE AND DANGEROUS: The danger factor increases throughout the film and it gets harder to stomach

stun guns and cattle prods.

Wee Man and Preston Lacy make mischief with super glue in typically puerile fashion, and certainly suffer for their lowbrow art, while the Sweat Suit Cocktail is repulsive, asking Steve-O to drink perspiration collected from the body of one of his brothers in mischief.

These escapades would be hard to stomach in 2D but in 3D, there is nowhere to hide as bodily fluids splatter the screen.

Our nausea reaches a crescendo in the Poo Cocktail Supreme, which sees Steve-O strapped inside a blue portable toilet attached to a bungee cord.

As the cord is released and the portable toilet shoots into the air, cameras inside the flimsy structure capture the horrifying sight of the daredevil being swamped in all kinds of nastiness.

At its best, Jackass 3D is hysterical, like the novel twist on duck hunting, a bruising interpretation of pinning a tail on the donkey or the team's revolutionary method of pulling a loose tooth.

But for every flash of genius there is also a smear of unrestrained filth that will leave those of a nervous disposition covering the 3D specs in disgust.



JACKASS 3D Certificate 18

Pictures PA PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES UK



YOUR TV REVIEW THE TRIP: BBC2, 10pm Monday

■ BY ED HILL

STEVE Coogan and Rob Brydon are two of the biggest names in British Comedy. Their history goes back a long way. Coogan was the man who gave Brydon his big break in TV when his production company Baby Cow commissioned his series of taxi driver monologues 'Marion and Geoff'.

The Trip (Monday BBC2 10pm) follows this pair of media players as they travel around the country on a press junket, reviewing restaurants for the Observer's lifestyle magazine. Coogan has planned to take his girlfriend on the trip until she drops out at the last minute, so Brydon gets the gig instead.

The series is essentially an exten-



HILARIOUS: Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon give fans a treat in their pseudo documentary

develops as they try to outdo each other with their humour and charm in front of the rest of the film crew.

Judging by the first episode of The Trip, comedy fans are in for a treat. The pseudo documentary gives the impression we are a fly on the wall of these two celebrities' lives. It plays on Coogan's pretensions to expand his Hollywood career and put behind him being typecast as his most well known comic creation Alan Partridge.

At one point he turns down a part on Doctor Who, telling his agent: "I am not doing British TV anymore."

A scene in which the two compete with each other to try and do the most authentic Michael Caine or Anthony Hopkins impression is hilarious. They even bring it down to minute nuances of particular performances. (Rent out the DVD of The Bounty to compare Coogan's spot on version of Sir Anthony

doing his Captain Bligh).

Brydon plays the more down-to-earth character; never unwilling to perform off camera for the public. Happy to be doing his panel show and chat show appearances.

Some may argue the series is just another case of the media's own fascination with itself, owing much to Larry David's Curb Your Enthusiasm. To a certain extent they're right but Brydon and Coogan ad lib with style. You know these exaggerated versions of themselves are not too far from the truth giving an insight into what it's like to be in the midst of the celebrity world whilst trying to live as normally as possible.

The duo has said at times the onscreen rivalry went too far and they had to stop when the insults got too close to the bone.

It's certainly worth tuning-in to see if the series can maintain its strong start.

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PAWS FOR CLAUS: A husky-ride was (debatably) one of the highlights of the trip, while Edward's meeting with the old boy himself and a successful go at ice-fishing were packed into a heaving itinerary. As for Dad, holidays don't get any better.

Up and running in Santa land

■ BY DAVE MAIRS

A VISIT to Santa Claus in Lapland. Trip of a lifetime, or something just about everyone seems to be doing?

Maybe not every year, granted, and maybe not everyone (I know the expense is way too great for many), but you know what I mean.

If you haven't seen the jolly fella way up north, then chances are you know someone who has.

Finland, Sweden, Norway... they're all at it. The former has arguably stolen the march in the Santa tourism market, but Norway, which stretches farther north than the other two, holds the natural advantage.

And it was to Norway that I travelled with my three-year-old son to meet the great man, although in fact our destination wasn't actually that far north (or in Lapland).

We were going to Savalen, a family-run hotel and spa resort in the east of the country some four hours' drive north of Oslo.

Don't be fooled by the lack of latitude, however. The area really could not be considered balmy, nearby Røros having recorded one of Norway's lowest-ever temperatures of -50°C.

It was nowhere near that cold when we visited Røros – indeed the frowns of our hosts as they nodded towards the UK-type slush around us while muttering about global warming suggested things really were changing.

Or maybe not, as a few weeks later the temperature in Røros delved to -42°C.

This former mining town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (it was "built exclusively of wood") and tradition clearly runs deep here. As the evening drew in, local families danced and sang around the Christmas tree in the square.

FACT FILE: NORWAY

Time difference	+one hour (GMT)
Capital	Oslo
Language	Norwegian
Population	4,900,000
Currency	Norwegian krone
Religion	Christian (Church of Norway)

Dave and Edward Mairs were guests of Visit Norway and Activities Abroad. Details from www.activitiesabroad.com, or call 01670 898654. Activities Abroad is offering four nights at Savalen from £1,075 per adult and from £795 per child, full board. The price includes flights from Heathrow, skidoo safari, husky-ride, sleigh-ride, ice-fishing and the meeting with Santa Claus. Go to visitnorway.co.uk for more information.



It sounds oh so sincere when writing such things, but I'm going to say this anyway: there was a real sense of the spirit of Christmas here. And yes, we have lost it in this country.

A sleigh-ride – all horses, candles and rugs – and an excellent meal rounded off things for the day and it was back to our lovely lodge for some lovely sleep.

The thing is, a visit to Santa at Savalen is about very much more than Santa – which is what sets it apart from many of its rivals across the frozen north.

For me, the highlight of the trip was the snowmobile safari, the concept of which was simple: you drove a skidoo through the forest

for a surprisingly – and satisfactorily – long time. It was exhilarating.

At this point, given that this yarn is essentially about Santa, I should mention the boy Edward. He did not get to drive a skidoo – instead he was huddled up with the other children in a bubblecar-type thing pulled by our guide's skidoo.

Edward loved it, as he enjoyed everything on this holiday (apart from when it emerged that I hadn't brought cold-weather mittens for him – which told on the husky-ride).

Ahh, the husky-ride. Another unforgettable experience, not least for the child who vanished into the white distance as my team of

huskies did what they do best – race very fast over the snow pulling someone along in a sled.

The dogs – the naughty dogs – had got us entangled in a low bush. The driver (me) got off to free us up and – whoosh – they were away.

I shrieked the command to make them stop, but they were having none of it. I don't know whether the fact that it was someone else's child rather than my own who was being hurtled to an icy oblivion made it better or worse, but happily the guide – out of sight to me – brought the situation under control. Phew!

And so to the subject I can avoid no longer: Santa Claus.

He was OK, even if he was late appearing at his door to meet us all, meaning some missed the magic moment, while it would have helped if his home had been tucked away in the surrounding woods, rather than next to the track we walked past every morning and evening.

Still, his sumptuous lodge hosted loads of toys, letters from the world's children pinned to the wall and a couple of elves to ensure the whole thing went swimmingly.

In truth, Santa had not been the high point of the holiday, which in its way was a tribute to the whole show. During our stay we had barely had time to draw breath as we enjoyed fun time after fun time.

We went ice-fishing, where a local man cuts a circle in the ice through which you dangle a line – and, yes, we caught a fish (and put it back).

We went tobogganing – proper, fast tobogganing with a conveyor-lift to take us back to the top of the slope after each descent.

We swam and messed around in the brilliant pool at the end of the day.

And best of all, Edward laughed and played with the other children on the trip as though he had known them all his life.

Me? A holiday with my son the like of which I may never have again. Wonderful.

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MOTORS NEWS



New Sharan ends long wait for people carrier

IT took 15 years, but VW has replaced its original VW Sharan people carrier.

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Most models are seven-seaters, though there is a six-seat Executive version from £29,345.



There's nothing soft about this mean Skoda

YOU may have thought Skoda was going soft after the famous 'Made of Lovely Stuff' cake adverts.

But the Czech marque is showing its harder side with a follow-up ad 'Made of Meaner Stuff', promoting the new Fabia vRS hot hatch (from £15,700).

This 'pocket rocket' features the VW Group's supercharged and turbocharged 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine producing 180bhp – more what you would expect from a normally-aspirated unit of two litres-plus and quite a departure from the previous vRS.



Ford celebrating sales boost at private party

FORD has strengthened its lead in the private sector motor market, according to market figures for the year so far.

It underlines the brand's success in steering away from dependence on its traditional fleet sector business.

Ford's Fiesta supermini continues to be the UK's favourite car, ably supported by the bigger Focus.

The brand also continues to lead UK commercial sales with its one UK-produced vehicle – the Transit – supported by the van spin-off from the Fiesta.



LOOKING GOOD: The spacious Mazda6 estate has lost weight and got a makeover, and, with plenty of high-spec features, is competing with the likes of Honda and Volkswagen

Stylish Mazda is going up in the world after facelift

ROAD TEST MAZDA6

■ BY STEVE LOADER

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Driving appeal



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Space



Value



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Reliability



Green rating



ior 2.2 diesel estate format, £21,495.

The big highlight of the '6' though, whether in hatchback or estate form, is the spacious and airy cabin and huge boot with lots of storage underneath, helped by the lack of a spare wheel – part of Mazda's drive to cut weight, consumption and emissions.

There is an automatic boot cover arrangement, though this did not always retract properly when lifting the test car's tailgate. One Mazda6 hallmark that does succeed brilliantly, though, is the Karakuri rear seat release system now being copied by other makers: one pull of the lever in the boot and the corresponding rear seat flops down automatically to make it easy to cram stuff into the load bay.

There is also plenty of rear legroom, everything works well and doors close with a nice clunk, even though much weight has been taken out of the car.

This is also evident in the handling. The Mazda is not skittish, but feels responsive and sporty, though some may find the ride firmish.

A little more evident quality in the cabin materials would underpin the marque's rising status, but the controls do their job and fall nicely to hand.



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Cliftonville Office
01843 230430

Birchington Office
01843 847999



Property of the Week



Margate

- No Chain
- Three Bedrooms
- 25ft Lounge/Diner
- Modern Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Must See
- 1/2 Mile To Beach
- 1/4 Mile To Westwood X

£159,995



Property of the Week



Kingsgate

- Four Bedroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Sought After Location
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Street Parking
- Superb Gardens

£355,000



Margate £84,995

- 500m To Sea
- Communal Parking
- 20ft Lounge/Diner
- Ground Floor



Ramsgate £124,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Street Parking



Cliftonville £159,995

- Three Bedrooms
- 40ft Rear Garden
- D.S Shower Room
- Osp For One Car



Margate £174,995

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Dining Room
- Garage And Osp
- Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom



Ramsgate £224,995

- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating



Palm Bay £250,000

- Two D/Bed Apartment
- Stunning Sea Views
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Reception Rooms

An agent will always tell you how good they are, but we let our customers tell you how satisfied they have been

I would like to say that your team at Parkland have all been great, very proactive, good follow up and friendly too. I can say out of all the estate agents I was registered with you were the only one who asked for feedback, called when a new property came on and regularly mailed us. Your team is great!

Miss Hillier, Westbrook

My house was sold within two weeks and the process involved was not stressful at all. Thank you very much for all your help. I will recommend Parkland Estates to everyone.

Miss Taylor, Ramsgate



Ramsgate £139,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing



Ramsgate £149,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Bay Fronted Lounge
- Newly Fitted Bathroom



Birchington £199,995

- Three Double Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
- Garage
- Approx 60ft Garden



Broadstairs £219,995

- 3 Bed Detached Cottage
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/breakfast Room
- Bathroom & Separate W.C.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Margate £94,995**

End Terrace Cottage
One Bedroom
Rear Courtyard Garden
Additional Loft Room

**Broadstairs £124,995**

Purpose Built Flat
Two Bedrooms
Allocated Parking
Security Entrance System

**Margate - £124,995**

Terraced House
Two Bedrooms
Kitchen/Dining Room
Approx 40ft Rear Garden

**Ramsgate £142,500**

Reduced
Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow
Car Port Plus Driveway
No Onwards Chain
Room For Improvement

**Ramsgate £149,995**

Semi Detached Cottage
Stripped Wood Features
Two Bedrooms
Two Reception Rooms

**Ramsgate £152,500**

Semi Detached Three Bedroom House
No Onwards Chain
Garage Plus Driveway
Close To Mainline Station

**Ramsgate £172,000**

Reduced
Detached Three Bedroom House
High Spec Bathroom
Fitted Kitchen
Conservatory

**Cliffsend £215,000**

Reduced
Detached Three Bedroom Bungalow
Two Reception Rooms
Dressing Room
Approx 60ft x 40ft Garden

**Westbrook £225,000**

Semi Detached Four Bedroom House
60ft Rear Garden
Bathroom + Wet Room
Two Reception Rooms

**Broadstairs £242,500**

Reduced
Detached Bungalow
Two Double Bedrooms
Lounge/Dining Room
Spacious Kitchen

**Broadstairs £249,995**

Reduced
End Terrace Three Bedroom Period House
Bathroom + Shower Room
Within 400 Yards Of Seafront
Two Reception Rooms

**Cliftonville £249,999**

SIZE MATTERS
Detached House
5 Bedrooms
3 Large Reception Rooms

**Ramsgate £314,995**

Executive Detached Four Bedroom House
Three Reception Rooms
Double Garage
Two En Suite Facilities

**Ripple £419,950**

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A large four bedroom family home. The property has been completely refurbished throughout to a very high standard. They have taken the time to restore all of the original features possible throughout. The house benefits from have two large reception rooms with original fire places. One is too the front of the property with a large bay window and the second looks out over the rear garden with patio doors. There is a large kitchen with access to a cellar and a fitted kitchen with built in appliances. To the rear of the property is a utility room with points for washing machine and tumble dryer and a downstairs bathroom with power shower. Up stairs are three double bedrooms one with en-suite one single bedroom and a family bathroom. The en-suite has an extra large walk in shower and the main bathroom has a bath with a power shower. The property also benefits from Gas central heating, Double glazing, Drive and private garden. Its a truly amazing property call to view today on 01843 291777.

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£775PCM



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- Two bedroom House
- End of terrace
- OSP and Garage
- Garden
- Large lounge
- Down stairs W/C
- New throughout

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£500PCM



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- Purpose built block
- Parking
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MARGATE

£600PCM



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- Three bedroom maisonette
- Large Lounge
- Two double one single
- Gas central heating
- Newly decorated
- Communal garden
- set over two floors

CLIFTONVILLE

£525PCM



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- 2 bedroom flat
- Self contained lower ground floor
- En-suite
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Court yard garden
- Double glazing
- Central heating

MARGATE

£500PCM



cliftonville@your-move.co.uk 01843 291777

- 2 bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Split level
- Large lounge
- Kitchen/dinner
- Double glazing
- Central heating

CLIFTONVILLE

£475PCM



cliftonville@your-move.co.uk 01843 291777

- Two bedroom flat
- Top floor
- Lounge/kitchen
- White goods
- Large power shower
- Recently refurbished
- Sea views

WESTBROOK

£375PCM



cliftonville@your-move.co.uk 01843 291777

- One bedroom flat
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Lounge/kitchen
- Large power shower
- Double glazing
- Recently refurbished
- Sea views

MARGATE

£425PCM



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- One bedroom flat
- On the 2nd floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Looks out over the park
- On main bus route
- Built in oven/hob and extractor

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MARGATE

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- Gas central heating

£440,000

WESTBROOK

- Detached house
- Gas central heating
- Four bedrooms
- Two reception rooms

£236,000

MARGATE

- 7 Beds, 5 Recepts
- Cast iron fireplaces
- Separate Annex
- Off street parking

£449,950

CLIFTONVILLE

- Converted flat
- Economy 7 heating
- One bedroom
- One reception room

£36,000

WESTBROOK

- 4 Beds, 2 Recepts
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Cul de sac location
- Gas central heating

£159,950

MARGATE

- Investment
- Local amenities
- Gas central heating
- Two bedrooms

£99,950

RAMSGATE

- Sold with tenant
- 2 Bed Terrace House
- Recently refurbished
- Mostly D/g, Rear Gdn

£99,950

RAMSGATE

- Converted flat
- Good decorative order
- Gas central heating
- One reception room

£75,000

RAMSGATE

- End terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating

£129,995

RAMSGATE

- 3 Bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- OSP and Garage
- Double Glazing

£125,000

BROADSTAIRS

- Stunning Modern Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- No Chain

£154,950

RAMSGATE

- Detached bungalow
- 2 Beds, 2 Recepts
- Gas central heating
- Village location

£194,950

RAMSGATE

- Semi detached bungalow
- 3 beds, 1 Recep
- Gas central heating
- Off street parking

£149,995

RAMSGATE

- Purpose built flat
- Warden Assisted
- Communal gardens
- Two bedrooms

£79,950

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Senior & General Appointments 42-43

The Westlands School

Academies Trust Business Manager
KCC Pay Band 13 £47,000 - £53,955
Required for March 2011

An opportunity has arisen to appoint a suitably qualified Business Manager to oversee the budget of The Westlands Primary and Westlands Secondary Schools. As a member of the Leadership Group, the successful candidate will be expected to use their professional expertise and experience to inform strategic planning and ensure that financial resources are deployed and managed effectively.

For further information or for a preliminary discussion, please contact the Executive Headteacher on 07956 076739 or by email: jwh@westlands.kent.sch.uk Recruitment packs are available from Westlands Academies Trust or online.

Closing date, Friday 26 November 2010

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk

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J Whitcombe MA

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The Secret Jungle Project

The Secret Jungle is an innovative new project based at Northdown Park, Margate offering an outdoor play space designed around the needs and wishes of disabled children, but where non-disabled children can also play.

Senior Project Development Worker

E26,309 - E29,969 pa
Ref: S01962/KOS

To manage The Secret Jungle project and to develop and deliver play programmes using The Secret Jungle. You'll have a relevant degree level qualification; substantial experience working with children and young people, including disabled children; experience working collaboratively in a multi-stakeholder environment; a sound understanding of the social model of disability, and of inclusive play. Regular evening and weekend work and regular travelling will be required.

Administration Assistant

E14,074 - E16,032 pa pro rata

16 hours per week

Ref: S01963/KOS

To provide efficient and well-ordered administrative services to The Secret Jungle project. You'll be an experienced Administrator with good interpersonal skills and a sound knowledge of MS Office. The post requires occasional unsocial hours including weekends and some travel to attend meetings.

For further information or an informal discussion on the roles, please contact Ivan O'Reilly on 01227 741748.

As well as a strong commitment to your development, we offer generous holidays, contributory stakeholder pensions, childcare vouchers and flexible working.

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or call us on 0121 362 8618 quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date for both posts:
24th November 2010.

Interview date:
w/c 6th December 2010.

All our recruitment documents are available in alternative formats. Please note CVs will not be accepted.

The Children's Society wants to create a society where children are valued, respected and happy. We are committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including children in care, or those who have run away. We give a voice to disabled children so their needs are met in ways suited to them. Through our work, young carers find time away from their responsibilities, and young refugees have a chance to rebuild their lives in new communities.

Children are at the heart of all we do, and we want to build a better childhood for every child.

Charity Registration No. 221124.



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www.childrenssociety.org.uk

PURCHASING AND STOCK CONTROL PERSON

We are currently looking to recruit a Purchasing and Stock Control Processor here at our busy factory in Ramsgate.

The successful candidate would need to have good communication and I.T skills, work accurately at all times, be able to meet deadlines and work well as part of a team.

Previous experience desirable but not essential. Starting salary from around £14,000 dependant on experience.

Please apply to Ray Kemp, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or e-mail ray.kemp@piperwindows.co.uk.

Closing date for applications is Friday 12 November 2010, no agencies. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.



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BEAUTIFUL bubbly blue eyed blonde, full of life looking for similar extrovert male to put some fun back in her life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350725 ☎

STUNNING blonde, feels life is for living looking for her Mr Right, 45+, who can make her feel special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350723 ☎

CURVY blonde, big blue eyes, many interests WLTM genuine male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350721 ☎

STUNNING slim green eyed blonde feels free to be with, likes nights out, looking for that special someone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350691 ☎

CUTE female, full of fun and always likes to try new things, seeks spontaneous, mainly male for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349029 ☎

ATTRACTIVE fit brunette, good fun and down to earth, WLTM funny, romantic guy who knows how to enjoy life. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349007 ☎

SINGLE mum, 39, likes most things, seeks male with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349999 ☎

BLUE eyed, slim single mum, needs help, seeks genuine caring man who wants a challenge. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382030 ☎

YOUNG bubbly, bouncy, romantic female, sexy, cool, seeks male for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349435

SAM attractive, outgoing with blonde spiky hair, green eyes, lonely, romantic and in need of some male company. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349927 ☎

STUNNING brown eyed brunette, funny and vivacious searching for fun and romance with unattached male. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349923 ☎

GILL slim stylish blue eyed blonde loving and caring, WLTM down to earth guy who knows how to treat his lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349921 ☎

AFFECTIONATE curly green eyed brunette seeking fit active man to share new adventures with. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349919 ☎

STUNNING ex model, curly long legs seek tall well built guy relax with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349005 ☎

LOVELY curly, adventurous and feminine seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349003 ☎

TINY blonde, blue eyes, lovely smile, romantic at heart, seeks really nice man for romance, possible LTR. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348999 ☎

LORRAINE 5ft 8ins, slim, size 10, long dark curly hair, green eyes, likes meals out, pubs, seeks male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348857 ☎

MARGARET 69, 5ft 4ins, active, N/S, GSOH, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, nights in, holidays, seeks nice likeminded gent, 65-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349085 ☎

GORGEOUS tall feminine brunette seek special loving, much older guy with a passion for life to get together with. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349035 ☎

CHATTY blonde, fun to be around, will try anything once, looking for some serious fun with confident guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349033 ☎

PETITE female with lovely long auburn hair, sensitive and loving seeks someone nice to share lots of cuddles, TLC and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349031 ☎

CURVY blue eyed blonde who just wants to have a good time with no complications. WLTM likeminded guy. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347127 ☎

PRETTY blonde with lovely green eyes seeks male for good conversation and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349901 ☎

SHAZ fun and bubbly with auburn hair seeks tall good looking guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349899 ☎

GORGEIOUS blue eyed blonde, hurt in past and looking for someone to mend a broken heart and put some lust back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347123 ☎

KAREN 51, smoker, many interests, seeks country loving guy, 35-45 who is fun, loving and caring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382148 ☎

ALICE 47, black, seeks older male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361748 ☎

WARM caring woman, 59, too young to be old, likes pubs, meals out, walks, cinema, theatre, seeks kind, caring, reliable, solvent male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344965 ☎

YOUTHFUL male, 49, 5ft 8ins, N/S, white, seeks slim African Prince, 30-45 for fun and laughter maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350185 ☎

LEO passionate, uninhibited, medium build, caring, mature, semi retired, N/S, easygoing, OHAC, GSOH, seeks similar petite lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350171 ☎

STRAIGHT female, 60-75 seeking male companionship, no complications for fun and socialising, gay man welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341379 ☎

CHEEKY brunette, seeks much older male to have some fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377306 ☎

DEBBIE 40, gorgeous cuddly haired beauty, WLTM a beautiful romantic man to sweep her off her feet and put some fun back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350695 ☎

ATTRACTIVE vivacious, curly blonde beautiful brown eyes, many interests, looking for someone nice to cuddle up on the sofa and share good wine with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350693 ☎

CAROLE 52, long chestnut hair, attractive, 5ft 4ins, medium build, likes travel, animals, countryside, seeks Scottish male, under 57 with hair. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380448 ☎

GENUINE young 60 yr old, neglected, lonely, seeks nice lady for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350383 ☎

IAN mid 50's, medium build, brown eyes, dark hair, likes nights in/out, music, pubs, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350371 ☎

MALE seeks special female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378984 ☎

VERY pretty blue eyed blonde, funny and warm seeks attractive down to earth, older male for fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349895 ☎

WARM caring woman, 59, too young to be old, likes pubs, meals out, walks, cinema, theatre, seeks kind, caring, reliable, solvent male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344965 ☎

37YR old blonde beauty, hour glass figure, likes to look good for her man, has much to offer a tall romantic male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347317 ☎

ATTRACTIONAL attractive, Brunette, brown eyes, 40's, N/S, slim, fit, friendly, seeks sincere, N/S, solvent male for love and relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344393 ☎

PROFESSIONAL attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40's, size 10-12 likes socialising, seeks sincere male of any nationality for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 341125 ☎

ATTRACTIVE young at heart professional, no ties seeks attractive male for mutual friendship. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355886 ☎

KAREN 34, leggy brunette who knows there's more to life than just work! WLTM confident professional male for time off meets in London and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342525 ☎

VIVACIOUS dark haired, brown eyed, petite single mum, witty, caring, enjoys life, seeks male, 42-50 with GSOH, kind heart and who likes socialising. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348655 ☎

DOWN to earth female, 5ft 8ins, 42, seeks sincere, honest male, Portsmouth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348557 ☎

6FT male, 24, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, athletic, outgoing, likes clubs, bars, sports, gym, seeks female for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349981 ☎

ANDY 42, romantic, loving, attractive, likes nights out, cooking, weekends away, seeks busy female, 32-55 with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349939 ☎

PAUL 44, 5ft 7ins, outgoing, caring, smoker, seeks slim, outgoing, fun girl, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349281 ☎

CHARISMATIC creative, intelligent, handsome, quintessential sexy male model/massage therapist, 39, seeks stylish stunning sensual lady, London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381966 ☎

ACTOR 5ft 10ins, strong build, likes theatre, music, comedy, politics, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 30-45 with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349871 ☎

MATURE attractive, fit male, seeks slim, petite, sexy Asian/Asian/Latino lady for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349805 ☎

SUSSEX male, 45, trusting, presentable, seeks female, 40-50 faithful and believes that romance is not dead. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381884 ☎

SOLVENT male, 45, 5ft 10ins, dark hair, fit, sporty, seeks tall, curvy female, 35-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381870 ☎

SLIM good looking male, natural, likes conversation, wine, sunshine, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381840 ☎

WIDOWER 66, 6ft tall, grey hair, N/S, likes sport, music, theatre, seeks attractive female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349581 ☎

PAUL 44, easygoing, seeks attractive, easygoing female of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381896 ☎

NICE male, late 50's, tall, blue eyes, grey hair, friendly, fit, likes boats, cars, outdoors, seeks female, late 50's for 1-2-1. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 323687 ☎

TALL athletic 30yr old male, seeks caring female, size 16 plus for fun, leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349107 ☎

AFFABLE gentle teacher, 56, likes caring female, size 16 plus for fun, leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381886 ☎

ROMANTIC good looking male, early 50s, many interests, seeks tall, black lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381418 ☎

JEFFERY 52, white, 6ft 2ins, medium build, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, seeks single, genuine black female for 1-2-1 relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348663 ☎

JOHN 5ft 2ins, medium build, 56, likes cereo dancing, walks, meals out, down to earth, seeks slim-medium build female, 45 plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349119 ☎

CRAIG outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215 ☎

BARBARA divorced, active, 5ft 7ins, dark hair/eyes, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, holidays, seeks intelligent male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346745 ☎

VOLUPTUOUS big hearted young brunette seeks hunky guy who likes body art to make life a bit more interesting. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347165 ☎

RICHARD 49, 6ft, slim, professional, GSOH, tactile, affectionate, likes most things, seeks slim, affectionate female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342134 ☎

ROSS 42, 5ft 10ins, green eyes, brown hair, likes music, kind, caring, seeks special female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349893 ☎

DAVID young intelligent, strong, funny male, 30, black, British African, seeks beautiful female with GSOH to share relationship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381898 ☎

EARLY 60's male, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, GSOH, likes most things, seeks similar fun loving female, 55 plus for good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349285 ☎

CHARISMATIC creative, intelligent, handsome, quintessential sexy male model/massage therapist, 39, seeks stylish stunning sensual lady, London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381966 ☎

ATTRACTIONAL blond blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, extremel genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC seeks warm, sincere Oriental/black/Asian female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348973 ☎

PROFESSIONAL affluent executive, 5ft 8ins, N/S, needs to correct balance, seeks lady, 35-45 to share quality time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349899 ☎

BLACK male, 30, attractive, seeks female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349527 ☎

TALL loving Latino male, well built, slim, olive complexion, openminded, likes music, sports, culture, politics, theatre, reading, writing, seeks N/S, busy female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 340165 ☎

MARK 58, divorced, bi, 5ft 11ins good shape, seeks bi male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337763 ☎

VIC 70, fit, healthy, own home seeks CD male for fun and friend ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338903 ☎

ANTHONY divorced, bi-curious, fit 40's, likes wine, travel, seeks similar guy to what happens. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381120 ☎

JAMIE Eastbourne, 35, gay, seek same in local area for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381522 ☎

TALL blond, muscular non scen guy 29, seeks older solvent gen 65 plus for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 348543 ☎

GOOD looking 31yr old male, 6ft 5in, black hair, passive, seek older, generous guy 45-65 for 1-2-1. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347065 ☎

KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair medium build, toned, young boyish! good looks likes nights out, sports holidays, seeks similar male, an age for adventurous fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355984 ☎

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TRIES: Andy Letts scored twice as Thanet fought back, but Gravesend's quality eventually prevailed

HOCKEY



STRUGGLE: But Cliftonville dug in for victory

Below par Ville men hang tough for win

Cliftonville 2 Ashford 2nd XI 1

DESPITE not being at their best, Cliftonville's men had enough to see off Ashford and return to the top of Kent Division One.

The nerves in the home side could be seen from the start, with some sloppy passing and defending allowing Ashford to gain the upper hand.

Ville opened the scoring against the run of play, when James Provins pounced to score from a tight angle following a penalty corner.

The goal improved the hosts, but a disputed penalty corner allowed Ashford to equalise with the last play of the half.

Both sides squandered chances after the break until the decisive breakthrough in the final five minutes. A move from Ville's own half finished with Alex Cowell calmly slotting home to open up a three-point lead at the top.

The club's ladies had to settle for a share of the points as they drew 1-1 against Marden Russets.

Ville began brightly but conceded after they were caught out on the break. Marden pressed for a second goal, but were kept at bay by determined defending.

Ville weathered the storm and grabbed an equaliser through Laura Higgs just before the break, but neither side could find a winner in the second-half.

The ladies then came through their Kent Cup preliminary round tie, beating Gravesend 5-4. Higgs scored a hat-trick, while Holly Cobb and Toni Lawrence were also on target.

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Gs' force puts paid to Wanderers cup hopes

Thanet Wanderers 10 Gravesend 31

THANET Wanderers exited the Kent Cup at the first hurdle, although late tries from Gravesend gave the scoreline an unfair reflection of Sunday's game.

The home side were within seven points of the visitors heading into the final 15 minutes, only for two converted tries to give the National 3 London and South East side a comfortable winning margin.

With no league game on Saturday, Wanderers coach Tom Carlier was able to pick a strong line-up. They were missing Tim

RUGBY

McLaughlin, but had Danny Clement back for his first appearance since breaking his leg.

Playing down the slope in the first-half, Wanderers' big pack dominated the breakdown. They opened the scoring when Andy Letts came off the back of a scrum to dive over.

While the hosts had the better of the forwards' battle, Gravesend's lively back division caused problems when in possession, despite the wet conditions.

They hauled the visitors back into the game,

giving them a slender 10-5 lead at half-time. The Gs extended their lead with a converted try after the break, but Wanderers fought back.

Letts touched down for the second time with a virtual carbon copy of his first try to get the hosts within range at 10-17.

For a moment the tie was in the balance, but Gravesend's greater quality eventually shone through. They ensured a safe passage to the next round with two late scores, which gave Wanderers nothing to show for their efforts.

They return to London 1 South action this weekend with the long trip to Portsmouth.



COME-BACK: (l-r) Warren Schulz and Mitchell Sherwood's late goals rescued Ramsgate from an embarrassing home defeat against Faversham Town after a frantic finish to the game

Rams' late goals salvage draw in topsy-turvy Town encounter

TWO goals in the last two minutes helped rescue a point for Ramsgate in an end-to-end Kent derby at Southwood.

In fact, all four goals came in the final 12 minutes, but when Dane Luchford put the Lilywhites two goals up with a brace on 78 and 85 minutes, it looked as though the points were heading down the Thanet Way to Faversham. But up popped Sam Cliff and skipper Warren Schulz with goals in the final two minutes of the game to save Jim Ward's side and leaves the Rams 16th in Ryman Division One South.

After a quiet start in which both sides had chances to take the lead, but failed to keep their efforts on target, it was the home side that went close to opening the scoring five minutes before half-time. Paul Axon beat two defenders in the area before hitting a shot goalwards that had to be tipped around the post by new Town goalkeeper Simon Overland.

The Lilywhites stopper was called into action again seven minutes after the break when a long throw found Mitchell Sherwood and the former

FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURTHANET REPORTER

Ramsgate 2

Cliff 89, Schlu 90

Faversham Town 2

Luchford 78, 85

Ashford and Sittingbourne man hit a shot on the turn that looked to be creeping inside the far post, only for Overland to make a smart stop.

The visitors fired a warning across the Ramsgate bows when a 35-yard lobbed effort had Brett Mills scrambling back to collect and the home side goalkeeper had to tip a curling effort wide a minute later.

Justin Luchford's side took the lead on 78 minutes when brother Dane finished off a fine counter-attacking move to slam past Mills.

The Rams had a chance to pull level four minutes later when a volley from Sherwood whistled past the Faversham upright, but it was the visi-

Ramsgate starting XI



Subs: Cliff (Harker 84), Tsangarides (Axon 69)

tors that were next on the score sheet when Luchford found himself in space to head home with five minutes remaining.

Ward's side refused to give in, however, and despite two excellent saves from Overland, substitute Cliff scored with a minute to go to give the Rams a lifeline.

Faversham's inexperience at this level told when they failed to close the game out and conceded a free-kick in the final minute which Schulz smashed home to earn his side a point.

The Rams were in action against Leatherhead at Southwood last night. Visit www.yourthanet.co.uk for match details.

Chances galore but Bury super strike buries Blues

FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURTHANET REPORTER

Margate 0



Bury Town 1



FORMER Leicester and Ipswich striker Jamie Scowcroft popped up with a wonder goal to deny Margate a share of the points at Hartsdown Park.

A second home defeat saw Blues drop to 15th in the Ryman Premier, but in truth they had chances to get something out of the game.

Gate boss Iain O'Connell installed midfielder Dan Stubbs in the centre after missing the start of the season having been plying his trade in Iceland, while Wayne Wilson was brought in for his first start in a month. The pair replaced Darren Marsden, who left last week, while Jay Saunders was out suspended.

The first chance of the game went to the home side on six minutes when Wilson's free-kick was met by Curtis Robinson, who sent a header towards goal, only to see goalkeeper Marcus Garnham leap across to his left to push the ball round the post.

Blues went close three minutes later through Dean Grant, while the visitors had



COLD COMFORT: Dan Stubbs returned after a stint in Iceland but he could not prevent Margate losing at home

two good chances when Scott Chaplin and Mark Coulson failed to find the target.

They went closer just after the half-hour mark when Coulson set up Chaplin and the Bury man's dipping effort came back off the underside of the bar with goalkeeper Jamie Turner beaten.

The visitors continued to have the lion's share of chances in the first-half and went close to taking the lead just before the break when Chris Henderson's volley went just wide of the upright, while Scowcroft gave a hint of things to come when he turned Henderson's shot goalwards, but Turner saved well.

The home side started the second-half brightly and striker James Pinnock should have given his side the lead when, after five

Margate starting XI



Subs: Quain (Osborne, 80)

minutes, the former Maidstone man latched onto a Grant pass and let fire with an effort that went just wide.

Margate went even closer on 54 when Aaron Lacy's long throw was met by Robinson, who crashed a header against the crossbar.

Within a minute, Bury took the lead in spectacular fashion. Tom Bullard found Scowcroft in midfield and the striker ran forward and let fly with a rising drive over Turner from 25 yards that crashed into the Margate net.

O'Connell's side didn't let their heads drop and within two minutes almost found themselves level. Lacy's low cross was met on the stretch by James Rogers but his shot flew just wide of the target.

Bury were dangerous on the break and Turner had to be alert on 73 minutes to block at point blank range.

Gate tried in vain to find an equaliser, but failed to find the net and slumped to their fifth defeat of the season.

Blues were back in action last night when they made the trip to in-form Tonbridge Angels. For match details visit www.yourthanet.co.uk.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Sutton United	14	9	4	1	+15	31
2 Kingstonian	13	9	1	4	+12	28
3 Lowestoft Town	13	8	3	2	+13	27
4 Billericay Town	14	6	5	3	+4	23
5 Cray Wanderers	14	6	4	4	+10	22
6 Bury Town	12	6	4	2	+2	22
7 AFC Hornchurch	14	6	4	4	-1	22
8 Canvey Island	13	5	5	3	+6	20
9 Tonbridge Angels	13	6	2	5	+4	20
10 Concord Rangers	14	5	5	4	+3	20
11 Hendon	11	5	4	2	+8	19
12 Tooting & Mitcham	14	5	3	6	-7	18
13 Carshalton Athletic	11	5	2	4	+5	17
14 Hastings United	14	4	5	5	0	17
15 Margate	13	4	4	5	+4	16
16 Welling	14	3	4	7	-4	13
17 Maidstone United	15	2	5	8	-11	11
18 Harrow Borough	11	3	1	7	-8	10
19 Aveling	14	2	4	8	-11	10
20 Folkestone Invicta	13	2	4	7	-12	10
21 Croydon Athletic	12	2	3	7	-15	9
22 Horsham	12	2	2	8	-17	8

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

1 Leatherhead	14	10	3	1	+24	33
2 Metropolitan Police	11	8	3	0	+24	27
3 Bognor Regis Town	12	8	2	2	+15	26
4 Whitehawk	13	7	4	2	+15	25
5 Sittingbourne	15	6	4	5	+3	22
6 Burgess Hill Town	14	6	4	4	+2	22
7 Godalming Town	13	7	1	5	-8	22
8 Walton Casuals	14	6	3	5	-1	21
9 Merstham	15	5	6	4	-2	21
10 Eastbourne Town	14	5	5	4	+1	20
11 Chatham Town	15	6	2	7	-6	20
12 Fleet Town	12	6	1	5	-3	19
13 Worthing	12	4	5	3	+10	17
14 Dulwich Hamlet	13	5	2	6	+1	17
15 Chipstead	14	4	5	5	-6	17
16 Ramsgate	15	4	4	7	-2	16
17 Faversham Town	14	4	4	6	-3	16
18 Whyteleafe	14	4	2	8	-11	14
19 Walton & Hersham	13	4	1	8	-5	13
20 Horsham YMCA	14	3	1	10	-27	10
21 Whittlesey Town	13	2	3	8	-8	9
22 Corinthian-Casuals	14	1	3	10	-13	6

FIXTURES (Saturday):

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION: Margate v Sutton United

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Metropolitan Police v Ramsgate

FOOTBALL

Wel on the road to a speedy recovery

MARGATE'S top goalscorer Shaun Welford could return to the first-team in two weeks' time after results have shown his injury is not as serious as first feared.

The striker, who joined the club from Conference South side Dover Athletic in August, has been at the forefront of Gate's success this season with ten goals, but has been ruled out of the last five games with a leg injury.

Welford, scorer of back-to-back hat-tricks against Horsham and Whitehawk, had his injury, which was picked up in training, assessed and it appears he has only a slight tear in the muscle. Margate boss Iain O'Connell says he could make a return to the side this month.

He said: "We originally thought he might have torn the muscle off the bone, but it is only a tear. It's a muscle in his leg which doesn't do an awful lot, but Shaun is feeling pain. However, he is a quick healer, he isn't training yet, but could be back in a couple of weeks."

"He's a great player who has played in this division before. It's not just his goals we miss, his work rate is brilliant too."

O'Connell gave Danny Stubbs his first start since returning to the club in Saturday's 1-0 home defeat to Bury Town, but the Gate boss says he is unlikely to make any more additions.

He said: "I don't think I am going to be able to bring anyone else in at the moment. The crowds are down and it wouldn't be right to sign players when there isn't really the money available. I am probably not the only manager in this position."



MUSCLE TEAR: In-form Blues striker Shaun Welford

Kent look overseas as financial worries ease

CRICKET

KENT may look to recruit one of their former stars as an overseas player for next season, with Wayne Parnell and Ryan McLaren believed to be high on the wish list.

It now looks as though there may be a budget for an overseas player, which will almost certainly go on a bowler as the county's financial pressure eases after work finally got under way on the St Lawrence ground redevelopment in September.

Head coach Paul Farbrace has started looking at players available in Kent's likely price range, and said those with experience of playing at St Lawrence would be looked more favourably upon.

He said: "Anybody that we know of, be that the likes of Wayne Parnell and Ryan McLaren – because they have played at Kent – will have an advantage over someone we know nothing about."

"It's important that an overseas player fits in our team and that's why they, and Makhaya Ntini were so good for us."

It is no secret Kent were impressed with Parnell in his two short stints in 2009. But it was also the fact being a left-arm seam bowler, which helped create rough for spinner James Tredwell to bowl into, also makes him a good overseas option.

It is likely to mean Parnell would be a better acquisition than McLaren, a right-arm seamer, but as Farbrace points out, there are also other left-arm quick bowlers in world cricket.

He said: "When you have a player like



RETURN? South African international Wayne Parnell

Treddy, who is one of the best spinners in county cricket, we would be stupid not to look at trying to enhance his success."

"We could bring in a right-arm seamer, but we have Matt Coles coming through, Robbie Joseph returning from injury and the likes of Simon Cook, but it would be good to have a left-armer who can swing the ball both ways and will leave rough for Tredwell to bowl into."

"That's why the likes of Parnell come into it because he is an exciting left armer, but there are other exciting left-arm seamers in international cricket as well."

"Whether Cricket South Africa would allow Parnell to come for three or four months and play county cricket, I'm not sure."

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